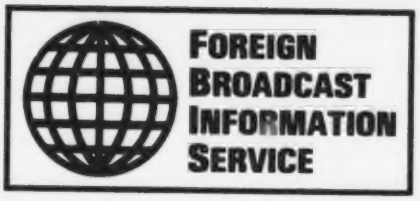

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Near East & South Asia

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27 October Middle East and South Asia Review

LD271358 [Editorial Report]

Kuwait and the Gulf Conflict

Kuwaiti Policy—Kuwait will undoubtedly look to its brethren in the Gulf and the Arab world for help if Iranian attacks pose a serious danger, the Kuwaiti ambassador to Washington told London's *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* in an interview cited by KUNA. He confirmed that Kuwait is using Arab military defensive experts of various nationalities, and also indicated that Kuwait is in contact with several parties, including the United States, to establish an anti-missile defense system against Iranian attacks. Iran is now "settling its score with the United States at the expense of Kuwait," he said.

In Kuwait, the director general of civil defense announced plans to set up a voluntary service to man new rescue, first-aid, and fire-combat teams, KUNA noted. In its first stage the scheme will be confined to Kuwaiti citizens, though other residents will be included at a later stage. The official said the current military escalation in the area calls for an "enthusiastic" response to the volunteer program.

Diplomacy—Following his talks with the Kuwaiti amir, Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan said he had given Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn linked with the ongoing cooperation and consultation between the two countries in the face of repeated Iranian attacks, INA reported. Ramadan also noted that views were exchanged on the agenda of the forthcoming Arab summit and on the importance of coordination to make it a success.

In another diplomatic development, KUNA cited an *Al-Anba'* report that Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov will arrive in Kuwait 29 October to dicuss the Gulf situation and to give the amir a message from the Soviet leadership.

Tanker Interception—The British-flagged tanker *Tonbridge* was stopped for questioning by an Iranian frigate 25 October, IRNA reported, noting that the *Tonbridge* is the first reflagged Kuwaiti tanker to be intercepted by the Iranian Navy.

Iran

Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi arrived in Algiers to discuss "political, cultural, and economic" relations with Algerian officials, IRNA reported. The agency added that the "low volume" of bilateral trade is "inconsistent with the close political ties" between the two countries.

Meanwhile, the Turkish minister of state for oil affairs was in Tehran to finalize an agreement on Turkish oil purchases for 1988, Tehran radio noted. In Ankara, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi's deputy, 'Ali-Reza Mo'ayyeri, submitted a message from Musavi to Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal on "regional developments" and bilateral relations, according to an IRNA report.

Mohammad Javad Iravani, who is at the head of a 35-man economic delegation visiting Pakistan, delivered a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i to Pakistani President Ziaul Haq, IRNA reported. The economic and financial affairs minister also met with the Pakistani foreign minister, who expressed "satisfaction" over the increase in trade between the two countries.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd said he does not favor increasing crude oil prices at least until the end of 1988 and then only if there is a real increase in demand, Riyadh radio reported. The king, who was quoted by the information minister following a meeting of the Council of Ministers, added that if the OPEC member-states were to raise prices, they would only succeed in reducing their market share.

Israel

Policy on U.S. Aid—IDF radio cited statements by spokesmen for the Defense and Finance Ministries denying a *Ma'ariv* report that Israel is inclined to forgo around $80 million of U.S. military aid next year as a goodwill gesture to the United States. The spokesmen said Israel has no intention of forgoing the aid, disclosing that the Cabinet agreed at its latest meeting that Israel will "insist on receiving all the aid" from the United States. *Ma'ariv* said some Israeli officials are concerned that there will be an "undesirable reaction" in Washington if Israel fails to compromise on the issue.

News Agency Closure—A Palestinian news agency in Nabulus was closed for 2 years as of 25 October by order of the military authorities, IDF radio reported. The agency was shut down because of contacts between its proprietors and the PLO.

Jordan

The labor minister said a recent decision to stop issuing work permits to foreign workers and to deport violaters, which has resulted in "growing controversy," came as a directive from King Husayn to combat unemployment, the *Jordan Times* reported. Addressing a press conference, he said the decision did not cover workers in agriculture and several other fields for which foreign labor is still needed.

Syria

No Confidence Vote—The People's Assembly passed a no confidence motion against Riyad al-Haj Khalil, minister of supply and internal trade, Damascus television reported.

Soviet Visitor—Nikolay Vasiliyev, USSR minister of land reclamation and water management, arrived in Damascus to attend celebrations to mark the signing of the Soviet-Syrian agreement on economic and technical cooperation, TASS noted.

Lebanon

The Amal Movement described President Amin al-Jumayyil's Cairo visit as a "new escalation" which shows the president has become "the real obstacle preventing Lebanon's resurrection, unity, and independence," Beirut radio reported. Amal said this calls for action "to bring down the regime" and to "impose an accord" based on justice and equality. The Syrian paper *Tishrin* also criticized Al-Jumayyil in an editorial reviewed by Damascus radio, accusing the president of looking for external solutions to the Lebanese crisis, even though "everyone" knows the crisis is internal and can be solved through dialogue among the disputing parties.

Al-Jumayyil returned to Beirut 26 October after his visits to Egypt, the UAE, and Bahrain, Voice of Lebanon radio noted.

Libya-Algeria

Algerian FLN party official Mohamed Cherif Messaadia delivered a message from President Chadli Bendjedid to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Tripoli television noted. In his arrival statement, reported by Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio, Messaadia said the message concerned "continued unionist action" among the Maghreb countries as well as bilateral relations and other issues.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League's Klibi Views Amman Summit Agenda

LD220959 Kuwait KUNA in English 0804 GMT 22 Oct 87

[By Samir Qaryuti]

[Text] Rome, Oct 22 (KUNA)—Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi has said the next month Arab summit conference would focus on the Gulf war and leave the door open for other topics, chief among which is the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Talking to KUNA after a meeting here last night with Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, Klibi indicated that some difficulties that surfaced in the past few weeks over the Arab summit agenda have been overcome and said the conference would be well-attended at the highest levels.

The agenda of the emergency summit which will convene in Amman November 8 became an issue when Syria first expressed reservations on the single-item agenda—the Gulf war—and insisted on giving equal attention to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The majority of Arab leaders, including PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, have recently admitted, and regretted, that escalations of the Gulf war and wide fears of a spillover relegated the Arab-Israeli conflict to the backseat.

After a number of visits to Damascus by King Husayn of Jordan and his premier Zayd al-Rifa'i, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad announced earlier this month he will take part in the summit.

The Arab League chief said the Amman conference is intended to forge a common Arab stance on the Gulf conflict that would complement international efforts aimed at implementation of a Security Council resolution which last July ordered a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war.

Klibi told reporters the Italian foreign minister, who is current chairman of the Security Council, briefed him on the world body's position on developments in the Gulf.

He said he and Andreotti agreed that Security Council Resolution 598 was the best approach to bring the Iran-Iraq war to an end.

Asked about a possible revival of Egypt's Arab League membership, Klibi said the question should be tackled by an Arab summit, akin to the one in Baghdad in 1978 in which Arab leaders agreed to freeze Egypt's membership for signing the controversial Camp David accords with Israel.

He, however, would not clearly say if the Amman summit would bring up the subject.

Klibi declined comment when asked by KUNA about reports that the Security Council had fixed a date for implementing Resolution 598. He said the question should be addressed to Andreotti.

Andreotti later in the night discussed the Gulf war flare-up respectively with the ambassadors of belligerent Iraq and Iran.

Palestinian Affairs

AL-ITTIHAD Interviews PLO's 'Arafat

JN261712 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 25 Oct 87 p 9

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar, by Taha al-Nu'man and Basimah Nafadi in Abu Dhabi on 21 October]

[Excerpts] *Al-Ittihad*: What do the Palestinians want from the [Arab] summit? What message does Abu 'Ammar want to address to the nation prior to this summit? How does the picture look now, based on the results of your contacts with the leaders you have met so far?

Abu 'Ammar: We believe the next conference will be an extraordinary one held under the most difficult circumstances and in the most dangerous times. The nation is facing fateful challenges posed not only by the Zionists in Palestine and adjacent areas, but also here in the southern part of the Peninsula, in the Gulf where the fireball is now rolling among the oil wells. This means that unless we hasten to stop it, we will be facing a possible explosion or explosions that will go beyond our region to threaten world peace and security.

This makes it incumbent on the international community to be aware of the seriousness and repercussions of the problem—removed from Western, particularly U.S., extortions—so that this community will understand the real problem and its serious repercussions. All this makes it essential to implement Security Council Resolution No 598. [passage omitted]

Al-Ittihad: The subject of ending the war always raises the question of this intensive U.S., Western, and foreign presence in the region. Iran, like others, believes this presence is the cause of tension and a source of danger. What do you think of this controversial equation?

Abu 'Ammar: We are against the U.S. presence. We predicted this situation before fleets came to this area. On this occasion, I hold the Iranians responsible for the presence of these fleets. I sent two messages to the leadership in Qom, one this year and another last year. In these messages I warned them that continued intransigence and failure to accept international, Islamic, and nonaligned initiatives to stop the war would bring world fleets to the area, which contains the blood of world industry; that is, oil.

Al-Ittihad: It has been reported that a Palestinian working paper will be presented to this summit. What are the broad outlines of this paper?

Abu 'Ammar: In fact, we have a Palestinian working paper. It does not deal only with the Palestine question. It tackles all topical issues facing our Arab nation. We will present this paper if the brother Arab presidents and kings so desire. However, we are ready to abandon our Palestinian paper for the sake of a unified Arab paper.

Al-Ittihad: Some say that Israel is still proposing the idea of sharing power in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with Jordan and that the United States is still attempting to impose this idea there. What is the truth?

Abu 'mmar: In this regard, I can say that the one who could not force our people to meet with Mr Shultz will not be able to impose power sharing on us.

Al-Ittihad: Let us return to the subject of an international Middle East Peace conference. In this regard, we would like to ask your opinion of some formulas that we believe deserve to be examined and tackled. It is an axiom in world politics that the one who is fighting is the one who should be negotiating. What do you think of an international conference attended by the Palestinians, Syrians, and Lebanese under the aegis of the two superpowers or the five permanent members of the Security Council?

Abu 'Ammar: We call for an effective international conference sponsored by the United Nations and attended by the Security Council permanent members and all parties to the conflict, including the PLO, on an equal footing. Thus far, we have no plans to change this formula.

Al-Ittihad: As we know, this is the official formula. However, we want here to note your reaction to the idea of an international conference comprising the parties to the conflict whose territories are actually occupied.

Abu 'Ammar: Do you believe that Egypt, which concluded the Camp David accords, does not have an essential role to play in any international conference? I say Egypt's participation in any international conference that will discuss the Middle East problem is essential. This is so whether we like it or not in spite of the fact that it regained Sinai through the Camp David accords. So is Jordan's participation.

When I spoke about a joint Arab delegation, I was asked who will chair it. I said that it may be by rotation or chaired by the Arab League secretary general. I was also asked what flags this joint Arab delegation will use. I said that it will be that of the Arab League.

Al-Ittihad: Within this context, what is your opinion about the proposals made by Shultz during his recent tour, as well as those he made to King Husayn in London?

Abu 'Ammar: I am not concerned with what Shultz has to propose. I am concerned only with what the UN proposes to me because the international conference must be held under UN auspices and not those of the United States. The international conference is not a new Camp David. If it is so, we reject it.

Al-Ittihad: Statements were recently attributed to you that the international conference will convene before the end of this year and that this conference amounts to direct negotiations. How true are these statements?

Abu 'Ammar: I have stated that the two giants may decide this year to hold an international conference. It might be held this year or shortly afterward. They also may not make any decision on this. Perhaps they will disagree and never make a decision. [passage omitted]

Al-Ittihad: What about Syrian-Palestinian relations? What is the nature of the contacts recently reported by the press and what about the Palestinian delegations that visited Damascus? What exactly took place?

Abu 'Ammar: What took place is that the brothers in Damascus received a Palestinian delegation (Abu 'Ammar refers here to the visit by Hasib al-Sabbagh and the delegation accompanying him) and they put forth 14 points as a basis for the dialogue. We replied by putting forth eight points as a basis for the dialogue.

Al-Ittihad: What are the most important points?

Abu 'Ammar: As long as there is a dialogue, I cannot say anything about them. These points belong to both sides and I cannot reveal them alone. They asked us several questions which we answered in a detailed letter. We asked them to reply to our points in the same manner and to hold a Syrian-Palestinian meeting, either in a fraternal or friendly country, or in Damascus. They asked us for 1 or 2 weeks to reply. This took place on 14 October.

Al-Ittihad: How did these contacts start? Are they, as is being said, the result of Soviet or Algerian efforts or both?

Abu 'Ammar: There are Algerian, Gulf, Saudi, and Yemeni efforts, as well as efforts by the Soviet friends and several socialist countries.

Al-Ittihad: Let us move to Lebanon and the resumption of fighting around the camps even after the agreement on ending the camps war. What happened?

Abu 'Ammar: Nabih Birri did not abide by what he signed. Regrettably, he resorted to a new method of distributing letters to the Arab countries calling on them to put pressure on the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

Al-Ittihad: Let us go back to the emergency Arab summit and what was recently said about Egypt's return to the Arab League.

Abu 'Ammar: Some Arab countries will insist on discussing this issue at the Arab summit while others will oppose it.

Al-Ittihad: But what about your stand?

Abu 'Ammar: We will voice it at the summit.

Al-Ittihad: What is the proposed formula for this return?

Abu 'Ammar: It is very difficult for me to say. This is not a Palestinian conference and I have no right to say what should take place. This is an Arab summit. What the Arabs decide will take place. Some may insist on discussing it at the summit. In any case, this issue is one of the topics currently being discussed.

Al-Ittihad: Is there any plan to reconsider the Arab League's structure and system of action during the forthcoming summit?

Abu 'Ammar: There is no such plan. This is an extraordinary emergency conference.

Al-Ittihad: There are reports that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak is exerting efforts to repair PLO-Jordanian relations. It seems these efforts have not yet yielded any fruit.

Abu 'Ammar: I know nothing about these reports. No side has contacted me or talked to me about this subject. We sent envoys to Amman such as PLO Executive Committee member 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya and Muhammad Milhim and Fatah Central Committee member Hani al-Hasan. Their meetings in Amman did not achieve any progress. Jordanian-Palestinian activities are restricted to running the joint committee for supporting steadfastness in the occupied territories.

Al-Ittihad: What are the obstacles?

Abu 'Ammar: The obstacles lie in the U.S. position. This administration does not enjoy the honor of abiding by its commitment. It is enough to remind it that it has violated all written agreements between me and Philip Habib. Anyone who reads Bob Woodward's book *Veil* will discover the extent of CIA involvement in the Lebanese war to eliminate the Palestinian factor. I can tell them that it is not so simple to eliminate that factor. Ask them: Where are Begin, Alexander Haig, and Sharon, the heroes of the 1982 invasion?

Al-Ittihad: What about your anticipated visit to the Soviet Union? What is the nature of the visit and what are the subjects to be discussed?

Abu 'Ammar: The Soviet leadership has invited me to attend the October Revolution celebrations next November, but this date conflicts with that of the Arab summit. However, this visit is not the working visit scheduled to begin after the Arab summit.

Al-Ittihad: How do you view Egyptian-Palestinian relations after the recent crisis they experienced?

Abu 'Ammar: I met with President Mubarak twice, the first time during the African summit in Addis Ababa and the second time during celebrations on the declaration of the Republic of Ethiopia in Addis Ababa. These meetings dissipated the summer clouds used by some sides to strain the brotherly Egyptian-Palestinian relations.

Al-Ittihad: Is there a plan to reopen PLO offices in Cairo?

Abu 'Ammar: For us, this is not so important. We have left this issue to brother President Mubarak to decide at a suitable time.

Al-Ittihad: Will Libya attend the summit? Do you have any new information about this? At what level will it participate? And how are your relations with Libya in light of the recent improvement?

Abu 'Ammar: Libya has announced that Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud will attend unless President al-Qadhdhafi surprises us as usual.

Our relations with Libya have been normalized, God be praised. Several days ago, our representative submitted his credentials and our office in Tripoli resumed its activity. We have exerted great efforts through the OAU and its chairman to achieve a cease-fire on the Libyan-Chadian border. We will continue these efforts out of our brotherly ties with the Libyans and our friends in Africa. I have to point out that these good relations have resumed since the days of the recent PNC session. Before that time, brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi took a tough position on the camps war against the Palestinian people.

Al-Ittihad: Finally, what do you expect from the forthcoming Arab summit?

Abu 'Ammar: We do not want to indulge in expectations. I can assure you that the summit will constitute a very important turning point for our Arab nation. We either restore a unified and effective Arab position or descend to the abyss. Let us wait and see.

'Zionist' Bus Station in Kfar Saba Bombed

JN261914 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1815 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Communique issued by the military spokesman for the Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command; date and place not given]

[Text] Pursuant to instructions, one of our combat groups operating inside the occupied homeland planted time bombs in a Zionist bus station in Kafr Saba. The

group returned safely to base. Yesterday, when the station was full of buses and enemy soldiers, the bombs went off, severely damaging the station, destroying and burning a number of enemy buses, and killing or wounding a number of enemy personnel.

Immediately after the attack, the Zionist enemy forces besieged the scene, began a large-scale search operation for other bombs, and arrested scores of Palestinian citizens on the pretext of connection with the operation.

Revolution until victory.

Intelligence Center Bombed

JN271928 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1815 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Communique issued by the military spokesman for the Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command; date and place not given]

[Text] Carrying out orders, our heroic revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland passed through all enemy military checkpoints and planted bombs in a building used by enemy intelligence in Tel Aviv. Our heroes succeeded in withdrawing from the area.

Yesterday the bombs went off, severely damaging the building and starting a huge fire that spread throughout it. Although Zionist firemen tried to extinguish the blaze, the contents of the building were destroyed and many enemy intelligence personnel were killed or wounded.

Immediately after the operation, a large force from the enemy's army and police rushed to the area, besieged it, searched for other bombs, and arrested many Palestinian citizens on the pretext of connection with the operation.

Revolution until victory.

OPEC Affairs

Oil Flow to West Unaffected by Gulf Escalation

LD261720 Kuwait KUNA in English 1639 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Bonn, Oct 26 (KUNA)—The recent escalation of the fighting in the Arabian Gulf has not affected the free flow of oil to the Western world, informed sources told KUNA Monday.

The sources, which prefer to remain anonymous, noted that the OPEC production today stands at between 17 and 18 million barrels a day with an increase of about two million barrels per day primarily coming from Iraq and Iran and prices have been stable at around 18 dollars a barrel in recent weeks.

According to the source, the recent American statements that the United States can do without the oil from OPEC for four months have contributed to the stability of the oil market.

Algeria

Iranian Economic Delegation Arrives 23 Oct

LD241333 Tehran IRNA in English 0810 GMT 24 Oct 87

[Text] Algiers, Oct. 24, IRNA—An Iranian economic delegation from Ministry of Heavy Industries led by the ministry's director general Ekhtiari arrived here Friday and was welcomed by Algerian officials. The delegation will inspect various Algerian economic installations and make preparations for the coming visit of the Iranian heavy industries minister, Behzad Nabavi, to Algeria. The delegation is also to inspect the fourth Algerian national fair and hold talks with Algerian officials.

Nabavi Arrives 26 Oct

LD261801 Algiers APS in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Algiers, 26 Oct (APS)— Behzad Nabavi, Iranian minister of heavy industries, and an important delegation which he heads, arrived in Algiers this afternoon for a visit which falls within the framework of meetings of the joint Algerian-Iranian committee. The Iranian minister made a statement at the VIP lounge of Houari Boumediene International Airport, in which he declared to APS that this visit comes within the framework of efforts aimed at reinforcing and strengthening ties between the two countries and expanding economic and cultural relations. He added: "We hope this visit will enable us to lay the foundations for economic relations between the two countries."

The Iranian delegation, which will participate in the meetings of the joint committee due to begin its first session at the Foreign Ministry tomorrow, comprises four deputy ministers and an important number of specialized cadres from various sectors.

Egypt

Mubarak Receives Turkish President's Message

NC251135 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1027 GMT 25 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Turgut Tolman, envoy of Turkish President Kenan Evren, at the presidential headquarters at noon today. Turkish Ambassador in Cairo Kondimir Unhun was also present at the meeting. In a statement issued after the meeting, the Turkish envoy denied that his mission to Cairo deals with military cooperation between Egypt and Turkey, saying he had discussed with the president Middle East developments in general.

He disclosed that he had conveyed a written message from Turkish President Kenan Evren to President Mubarak in response to Mubarak's message to the Turkish president in September. He added that it deals with the Cyprus problem, which is of special significance to Turkey, and that President Mubarak gave him a reply to this message.

Reply Given to Evren

NC261636 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—Turgut Tolman, envoy of Turkish President Kenan Evren, departed from Cairo this afternoon following a 5-day visit to Egypt. During his visit, the Turkish envoy was received by President Mubarak, to whom he presented a written message from President Evren. The Turkish envoy is carrying President Mubarak's reply to President Evren.

'Abd al-Majid Delivers Speech on UN Day

NC251723 Cairo MENA in English 1615 GMT 25 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, Oct 25 (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy premier and foreign minister, said today history will record that 1987 was a decisive year in the history of the United Nations because it faced the challenge of asserting its responsibilities in coping with pressing political problems.

Speaking at a ceremony which was held this evening by the Egyptian United Nations Association on United Nations Day, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said the solutions offered to deal with those problems were based, in essence, on two elements, namely, that they were offered within the framework of the United Nations and secondly that they called for an active participation on the part of the permanent members of the UN Security Council. The ceremony was attended by a number of ambassadors and officials of the Foreign Ministry and the Egyptian United Nation Association.

Dr. 'Abd al-Majid said that as regards the Middle East problem Egypt continued her efforts so 1987 may be a year of peace. As a result of Egyptian efforts, there was increasing support to the call to convene an international Middle East conference.

The deputy premier and foreign minister asserted anew that Egypt's positions regarding the convocation of that conference were as follows.

1—The conference should be held within the framework of the United Nations.

2—That Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 should be the basis for the convocation of the conference.

3—That all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation, should take part in the conference.

4—That the conference be attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council to shoulder their responsibilities according to the UN Charter.

5—That the conference be an effective framework for direct negotiations about all elements of the Palestine cause and the rights attached to it and also the issue of the Middle East.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid referred to talks which were held in Cairo during the past two weeks with the Soviet deputy foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state which centred on the international Middle East peace conference. He hoped that these talks, in addition to the wide ranging contacts which Egypt is making at the international level will give a push to efforts to convene the Middle East peace conference at the earliest possible time within the framework of the United Nations.

Dr. 'Abd al-Majid said the Gulf war was another challenge which faced the international community represented in the United Nations. The deputy premier and foreign minister said Egypt supported Security Council Resolution 598 which called for an end of the war. Egypt declared its attitude at the General Assembly and in the different contacts made. Egypt said the resolution should be implemented in its entirety so that ceasefire may be followed by withdrawal of forces and then fact-finding. Dr. 'Abd al-Majid expressed hope that Iran would respond to the resolution in order to stop the shedding of the blood of Islamic people. He urged all peace-loving nations in the world to cooperate to see that the resolution is implemented.

Egyptian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Majid reviewed in his speech accomplishments of the United Nations since its establishment in 1945 stating that the United Nations have contributed to the many changes which took place in the world during recent years. He added that thanks to the United Nations many peoples in Africa, Asia and Latin America gained independence and obtained the right to self-determination.

He paid tribute to the UN and its specialised agencies for their efforts in the fields of agriculture, health, culture, society and laws. He added these agencies work to promote the right of man wherever he might be.

He added that Egypt which had shouldered its international responsibilities out of conviction of world conventions and international laws has urged the necessity to find just and fair solution to the Middle East issue and the Palestinian issue and the necessity to respect the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. He added that Egypt has also urged for solutions to the problems of Namibia and the racial discrimination in South Africa.

Dr. al-Majid warned against the international economic crisis which has placed developing countries before big challenges which as President Husni Mubarak said in his speech before the UNCTAD conference, threatens with worst results.

He said he explained Egypt's viewpoint on a wide range of international and regional issues, foremost among which are the Middle East problem, the Palestinian cause, the Gulf war, Namibia, the racial discrimination in South Africa, the Afghanistan and Latin American problems, during his presence in New York.

Further on UN Day Speech

NC252157 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 25 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has called for implementing UN Security Council Resolution 598, which pertains to a cease-fire between Iraq and Iran. He said the radical solution to the tension in that region is a halt to the Gulf war.

In a speech delivered this evening during a ceremony held at the Arab League Headquarters in Cairo by the Egyptian United Nations Association to mark United Nations Day, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid asserted that Iran is pretending to forget that the attempts to contain the Gulf war followed in the wake of its repeated encroachments on international shipping in the Gulf, its laying of mines, and its recurring acts of aggression directed against Kuwaiti sovereignty and territorial waters. He recalled that every such act of aggression has met with Egyptian condemnation. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid emphasized that Egypt supports the Kuwaiti people. [passage omitted]

Abu Ghazalah Vows Protection of Arab Nation

NC261419 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1352 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Suez, 26 Oct (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, has stated that events around Egypt prove beyond any doubt that weakness invites aggression. He said that we must always be ready and vigilant and described the threats to the Arab nation as serious and destructive.

Abu Ghazalah affirmed that the Egyptian Armed Forces believe in the importance of preparation and readiness. These forces will never be weak or allow anyone to play havoc, act at will, or strike without a response from Egypt. He noted that when certain sides felt there were some who were weak, they attacked. In a speech delivered today at a celebration to mark Superiority Day of the 3d Field Army, Abu Ghazalah said Egypt is constantly preparing itself to protect the Arab nation and to

deter anyone who conceives of attacking our land, airspace, or waters. Egypt, he asserted, is the shield of this nation and the power that can protect it. [passage omitted]

Al-Baz, PNC Member View Bilateral Relations
NC262031 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2003 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, met with PNC member Sa'id Kamal this evening. During the meeting, talks dealt with the latest developments in the Middle East situation and the Palestinian issue, as well as Egyptian-Palestinian relations and the current efforts to promote the peace process in the area.

Soviet Media Delegation Ends Visit, Departs
NC270708 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2313 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—The Soviet media delegation led by Ivar Kezbers, deputy chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting [title as received], left Cairo tonight for home following a 1-week visit to Egypt.

Muhammad al-Khatib, chairman of the Central Administration for International Relations in the Radio and Television Union, who was at the airport to see the delegation off, said that during its visit the delegation had signed a protocol for cooperation between the Egyptian Radio and Television Union and the Soviet State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting and had also met with Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif.

Al-Khatib noted that a Hungarian delegation, led by the chairman of the Hungarian radio, will visit Cairo on 24 November to sign a protocol between the Egyptian and Hungarian radios.

Kuwaiti Information Ministry Officials Arrive
NC231606 Cairo MENA in English 1543 GMT 23 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, Oct 23 (MENA)—Two officials of the Kuwaiti Information Ministry arrived here today on a three-day visit to discuss prospects of providing the Kuwaiti television with Egyptian television programmes. The two officials will also discuss prospects of joint production between the Egyptian Radio and TV Federation and the Kuwaiti television. Some Islamic and historical programmes of joint production were displayed on Kuwaiti television.

Colombian Military Delegation Arrives 23 Oct
NC231944 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT 23 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—A Colombian military delegation led by Manuel Jaime Guerrero, commander-in-chief of the Colombian Armed Forces, arrived in Cairo this evening. Staff Major General Faruq 'Abd al-'Azim, commander of the central military zone, received the delegation members at the airport.

UAE Oil Minister Concludes Visit 24 Oct
NC241056 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0745 GMT 24 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA)—UAE Oil Minister Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah left Cairo this morning following a 4-day visit to Egypt. While in Egypt, Al-'Utaybah was received by President Husni Mubarak, People's Assembly Speaker Rif'at al-Mahjub, Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi, and Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil. Prior to his departure Al-'Utaybah said that he was carrying a verbal message from President Mubarak to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

U.S. AID Deputy Director Arrives for Talks
NC251630 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1617 GMT 25 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA)—U.S. AID Deputy Director William Fuller [name as received] arrived in Egypt this evening for a 1-week visit. While here, the U.S. AID officials will hold talks with Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and agriculture minister, and Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of Cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development. [passage omitted]

Military Talks Begin With Nigerian Delegation
NC261338 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—Egyptian and Nigerian delegations held their first round of military talks at the Defense Ministry today. The Egyptian delegation was led by Lieutenant General Safiy al-Din Abu Shinaf, the Armed Forces chief of staff, and the Nigerian side was headed by Lieutenant General Sanni Abacha, chief of staff for the Nigerian Armed Forces.

The talks, which were preceded by an official reception for the Nigerian chief of staff, dealt with strengthening bilateral military cooperation. The Nigerian chief of staff arrived in Cairo yesterday evening for a 5-day official visit. While here, he will hold talks with senior officials and visit certain units and military factories.

Chief of Staff Meets Mubarak

NC271133 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0855 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 27 Oct (MENA)—Lieutenant General Sanni Abacha, chief of staff of the Nigerian Armed Forces, was received by President Husni Mubarak today. Following the meeting, the Nigerian chief of staff said that he had conveyed from the Nigerian president to President Mubarak a message of goodwill which emphasized the good and everlasting relations between the two countries.

Answering a question on Egyptian-Nigerian military cooperation, the Nigerian chief of staff said that military cooperation between the two countries was good. He expressed the hope that such cooperation would increase following this visit.

Greek Agriculture Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC262145 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2017 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 26 Oct (MENA)—Greek Agriculture Minister Ioannis Pottakis and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Cairo this evening for a 5-day visit at the invitation of Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture.

Upon his arrival, the Greek minister said he will meet with Dr Wali tomorrow for talks on ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in agriculture and agricultural research, fishing, and land reclamation. He also noted that both sides will study the problems currently facing the agricultural industry. Mr Pottakis expressed optimism regarding the outcome of the talks. [passage omitted]

Al-Sharif Denies Foreign Publications Censored

NC241504 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 24 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 24 Oct (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has denied a report published by the British newspaper *The Observer* on 4 October which claimed that the Egyptian Government has revived censorship of foreign publications. The report had also claimed that three pages of the publication were removed before its circulation was allowed. Al-Sharif asserted that the said edition was circulated in its entirety within Egypt.

In reply to a question from MENA concerning a report carried by the opposition newspapers which claimed that copies of the 28 September edition of the *Herald Tribune* had been confiscated, the information minister asserted that this edition was circulated inside the country immediately after its arrival. He affirmed that the Egyptian state is careful to preserve the freedom of expression and democracy.

However, Safwat al-Sharif added that it is our responsibility to implement the law with regard to foreign publications. He noted that this is done in all countries. The information minister stated that the Egyptian authorities do not allow the circulation of magazines containing indecent pictures, opinions and stories which are not in agreement with Egyptian society's values and traditions, or articles that incite the public, urge extremism, encourage the abandonment of values, deride religion, or promote extremist ideas.

Air Force Chief Denies Pilots Fighting Abroad

NC271145 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 27 Oct (MENA)—Air Force Commander Major General 'Ala' al-din Barakat has stressed that not a single Egyptian pilot is engaged in a fighting mission outside Egypt's borders. He also declared that two Mirage-2000 planes will arrive in Egypt before the end of this month, thus completing the first batch of the French Mirage aircraft to be delivered to Egypt.

The Air Force commander said that Egypt is currently holding negotiations to purchase Boeing-707 aircraft for mid-air refueling of fighter planes. He added that the United States has agreed to supply Egypt with the latest version of the Sidewinder missile.

In an exclusive statement to MENA military editor 'Adil 'Abd al-'Aziz, the Air Force commander denied that Egypt would sell the F-4 Phantom planes it has to Turkey. He also declared that from now on, university faculty students will be allowed to join the Air College.

Maj Gen Barakat said that while there are Egyptian experts and technicians who work in some Arab countries in the field of training, there is not a single Egyptian pilot who is engaged in a fighting mission outside Egypt's borders. [passage omitted]

3 U.S. Early Warning Aircraft Received

NC261649 Cairo MENA in English 1632 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, Oct. 26 (MENA)—Three E2C advance warning planes arrived at an Egyptian air base this afternoon. They were flown by Egyptian airmen. Air Marshal 'Ala' al-Din Barakat, commander of the Egyptian Air Force, said that with the arrival of the three planes Egypt would have received all the planes it had contracted of this type. The air chief said the new planes would enter service before the end of this year.

The planes had proved most efficient and gave valuable assistance to land and sea forces. The planes spotted targets flying at a low altitude which could not be detected by land radar. It could also warn against hostile objects at a distance of 50 kilometres. Air Marshal

Barakat said the E2C planes were most suitable for operation in Egyptian airspace. The first batch of two of these planes had arrived at an Egyptian air base on November 2 last year.

Libya

Algeria's Messaadia Arrives, Makes Statement

LD261322 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the [Algerian FLN] Political Bureau and official in charge of the Central Committee Permanent Secretariat, and his accompanying delegation arrived at Tripoli International Airport this morning.

Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud was on hand to greet him at Tripoli International Airport. The Algerian ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah and members of the Algerian Embassy staff also welcomed him.

In a statement to JANA, Brother Messaadia noted: I am pleased to visit my second home, the Great Jamahiriyah. The president and party general secretary honored me with the task of carrying a message to brother leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. This message comes within the framework of our bilateral relations; issues of interest to the Arab nation, the African Continent, and the Mediterranean countries; and questions of common regional interest. It also part of the joint plan of action between the Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria and the continued unionist action among the Arab Maghreb's lands and peoples. We have worked in the past, are working today, and will continue to work to achieve this strategic objective, which represents an essential demand of the masses and thus serves the African Continent and the Arab nation.

Gives Message to Al-Qadhdhafi

LD262106 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Excerpt] The brother leader of the revolution today received Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and official in charge of the Algerian FLN party Permanent Secretariat. He gave the brother leader a message from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. [passage omitted]

Gulf States Ready To Give Egypt Economic Aid

LD261550 Tripoli JANA in English 1444 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tumur [October] 26, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—The Arab Gulf countries have expressed their readiness to give big financial support to Egypt. In return, political and military connections have to be established with it.

Informed sources in the Egyptian capital have pointed out that this financial support will help Egypt pay its chronic debts many of which are overdue to the Gulf countries.

JANA's Arab affairs editor has pointed out that these debts have come about because of the disgraceful accords and the open-door economic policy imposed on Egypt by the U.S. Administration [words indistinct] which a number of production projects were cancelled in Egypt so as to force it to import Israeli eggs.

The editor continues that whoever wants to help Egypt should unravel it from the tangles of the enemy cutting off any connection with it.

The Great Jamahiriyah repeatedly called on the Arab countries to pay Egypt's debts which the U.S. places pressure it the aim of Great Jamahiriyah being to make Egypt disentangle itself from the accords of disgrace thereby enabling it to return to the fold of the Arab nation. [sentence as received]

The editor stressed that Arab money should be used to liberate Egypt and get rid of the hegemony imposed on it. As for supporting Egypt and paying its debts in a bid to enable it to strengthen further its relations with the enemy and sell out the Palestinian question, this is totally rejected by logic and reason.

Mauritania

Taya Sends Solidarity Message to Kuwaiti Amir

LD250504 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 24 Oct 87

[Text] Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya, chairman of the CMSN and head of state, has addressed the following cable of solidarity to his highness the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah:

I have learned with deep regret of the aggression [word indistinct] on the soil of sister Kuwait. I deplore this act which contravenes international norms and affirm to you anew the solidarity of the Mauritanian people, their CMSN, and their government, following this aggression which, regardless of its origin, was aimed at violating the sanctity of Kuwaiti soil. I am confident that under your wise leadership the resistance of the sister Kuwaiti people will overcome all plots which have been hatched to hinder their march toward progress and prosperity.

President Taya Interviewed on Regional Issues

AB232115 Paris AFP in French 1102 GMT 23 Oct 87

[Text] Nouakchott, 23 Oct (AFP)—Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya, the Mauritanian head of state, has said that Morocco's construction of a sixth defensive wall in the southern part of Western Sahara, along the northern border with Mauritania, provoked a real crisis between Nouakchott and Rabat, but this crisis is now

over. In an interview with AFP, the Mauritanian president reaffirmed the Nouakchott government's policy of neutrality in the conflict over the former Spanish colony that has continued for over 10 years between Morocco and the Algerian-supported Polisario Front.

"Our neutrality continues; there is no problem about that," Col Taya stressed, "but the presence of troops near sensitive areas cannot help but disturb us." He stressed that such a situation forces Mauritania to deploy an active operation in the north, although the country's resources are limited. Mauritania, which has tried to maintain a policy of strict neutrality between Algeria and Morocco since Col Taya came to power in December 1984, expressed concern and was irritated by the construction of a sixth Moroccan defensive wall in April of this year. This wall, which runs along the northern border of Mauritania for 220 km and passes only 400 meters from the Mauritanian village of Inal, is meant to deny Saharan soldiers access to the Atlantic coast.

The construction of this wall was followed by the visit of Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, who notably went to Nouadhibou, the economic center of the country on the northern border of Mauritania, and reaffirmed his "solidarity" with Mauritania. "We have overcome the crisis with Rabat because there was a real crisis," President Taya emphasized. He declined, however, to specify whether new developments have since arisen to justify this thaw in relations. According to the Mauritanian president, there have been no Polisario attacks from Mauritanian territory for the past few months.

Asked about Libya possibly joining the "Friendship and Concord Treaty" that links Tunisia, Algeria, and Mauritania, the Mauritanian leader stressed that he was "not against it as long as Libya normalizes its relations with Tunisia." "We have been examining this issue with our two other partners and the final decision will be made by the three of us," Col Taya stressed. He added that Nouakchott has "no dispute with Libya". The Mauritanian head of state reaffirmed his commitment to the ideals of "the Great Maghreb" treaty which can one day reunite the three founding states with Morocco and Libya.

With regard to black African agitations, which were followed by a wave of arrests in black intellectual circles about a year ago, Col Taya described as "very surprising" the allegations of apartheid that are sometimes made against Mauritania. "Here in Mauritania, we are all Muslims—black or white. The essence of our identity is in Islam and in the belief in our prophet," the Mauritanian leader said. He pointed out that the black African agitation was conducted by movements based outside the country, but which do not necessarily get any support from governments of black African countries. According to the Mauritanian president, these "agitators" want to transpose at all costs the situation in South Africa to Mauritania, although the two situations are not at all comparable.

Finally, asked about the recent arrest of the two ministers (economy and fishing) and the governor of the Central Bank of Mauritania for financial irregularities, Col Taya said ongoing investigations will determine whether these high ranking officials will be brought before the court. "It is a very serious matter and we have, for the moment, taken some precautionary measures," the Mauritanian head of state pointed out.

Morocco

Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah Arrives 25 Oct

LD251442 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Oct 87

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, first deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard of Saudi Arabia, arrived in Morocco this morning. [passage omitted]

King Receives Turkish President's Envoy, Message

LD261522 Rabat MAP in English 1157 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Fes, Oct 26. (MAP)—King Hassan II of Morocco, who was flanked by Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed and Prince Moulay Rashid, received here Saturday Sencer Asena special envoy of the Turkish president. During the audience Sencer Asena handed the Moroccan sovereign a message from President Kenan Evren of Turkey. The message deals with bilateral relations and international issues, Asena told the press at the end of the audience.

Sudan

Islamic Group Urges Expulsion of U.S. Ambassador

JN241841 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 22 Oct 87 p 1

[Text] Khartoum—The Sudanese Scientists Association, a major Islamic organization which supports the opposition Islamic Front in Sudan, has called on the government to immediately expel the U.S. ambassador from Khartoum. The association accused him of overstepping diplomatic limits and beginning to intefere in the country's affairs. In an interview with *Al-Sudani* newspaper, the ambassador was quoted as saying that maintaining the Islamic Shari'ah will not benefit Sudan.

Prime Minister Receives Mengistu Letter

EA261509 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 25 Oct 87

[Excerpt] At his home in Omdurman this evening, Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi met with Amanuel Amde Michael, member of the WPE [Workers Party of Ethiopia] Political Bureau and deputy chairman of the State Council in charge of legal and foreign affairs, and the delegation which is accompanying him. The meeting was attended by Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Ma'mun Sanadah. During the meeting Al-Sadiq received a letter from Mengistu Haile Mariam, president of Ethiopia.

Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi made the following statement to our correspondent:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

The letter was brought by the delegation led by Amanuel Amde Michael, deputy chairman of the State Council and a member of the Political Bureau of the WPE, the only party in Ethiopia. The letter clarifies the steps now being taken by Ethiopia under a new political system and a new constitution. This is the reason for their visit. Accompanying the letter is a copy of the Ethiopian Constitution and charters and booklets and explanations about present policies. The letter also expresses a desire for friendly and cooperative relations at all levels between Sudan and Ethiopia.

After I received the letter, we talked for a long time. Mr Amanuel spoke about the meetings he will hold in Sudan and in other Arab countries, during which they will explain these new steps. He also referred to meetings with various communities in Sudan, during which they will explain this new policy of seeking peaceful solutions to internal problems. They deem it necessary to explain this to people.

I wished them success in this task and said that the most important and fundamental aim in relations between our two countries was cooperation and the development of relations on a broad base that safeguards the interests, rights, and [word indistinct] of the two peoples. The meeting was serious and positive. I expect that henceforth there will be moves to eliminate the reasons for [word indistinct] between the two countries, and the laying of strong foundations—God willing—for the improvement of relations and for positive cooperation in various fields between the two countries. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Al-Mirghani Receives PLO's 'Arafat 24 Oct

JN241844 Khartoum SUNA in English 1725 GMT 24 Oct 87

[Text] Khartoum, Oct 24 (SUNA)—Chairman of State Council Ahmad al-Mirghani, emphasized here today the support of Sudan to the Palestine Liberation Organization PLO as the only representative for the Palestinian people. Al-Mirghani, who was speaking in the wake of his meeting with the leader of the PLO Yasir 'Arafat, said that the meeting was in the context of coordination between Sudan and the PLO on issues pertinent to the Palestine question which will be speeded up within the convening of the urgent Arab summit in Jordan next November.

On the other hand, Yasir 'Arafat, explained that he discussed separately with each of the Prime Minister al-Mahdi, and Chairman of State Council Ahmad al-Mirghani, details of the serious issues Arab nation is approaching such as escalation of the Gulf war and the subseqeunt increasing of foreign presence there. In addition, 'Arafat stated that the Palestine question will be among the prominent issues in the due Arab summit in Jordan, besides, Lebanon and the Gulf dilemmas. As concerns the Gulf war, he said the PLO has made its best for peace restoration in the area.

'Arafat Departs

JN251909 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1814 GMT 25 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] left Khartoum last night after a 24-hour visit to Sudan, which was part of a tour of a number of Arab states. [passage omitted]

Attack on Kuwaiti Oil Platform Denounced

JN241430 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1419 GMT 24 Oct 87

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Oct (SUNA)—Sudan has denounced the unjust attack against the oil platform near the Kuwaiti port of Al-Ahmadi. Dr Ma'mun Sanadah [Sudanese foreign affairs minister] reaffirmed Sudan's support for Kuwait in a cable sent today to Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister. He declared this position in the emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers council.

Spokesman Says Army Politically 'Neutral'

JN251306 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 25 Oct 87

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Oct (SUNA)—The newspaper *Al-Ayyam* has said that an official spokesman of the Armed Forces has denied the existence of any political activity inside the Army. He also said that the Armed Forces are totally neutral and removed from outbiddings and political conflicts, because they represent all popular sectors of Sudan. The spokesman added that the Armed Forces are a disciplined unit and completely faithful to the homeland and the Sudanese people. It aims to unify ranks and safeguard the homeland from internal and external ambitions.

The spokesman also said that no military operations have been carried out by Garang forces in the southern areas, with the exception of the recent train incident. He pointed out that the situation is quieter now than it was last fall. He said that the outlaw forces have weakened recently.

SUNA Director Relieved; Replacement Named

JN251832 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1510 GMT 25 Oct 87

[Text] The State Council has decided to relieve Dr Al-Tayyib Haj 'Atiyah of his post as director general of SUNA. He has held the position since the transitional period following the uprising of April 1985. The State Council has also decided to appoint Ahmad al-Tijani

al-Tayyib director general of SUNA. The new appointee has held the directorship of Ministry of Culture and Information bodies, including the information service and Radio Sudan.

Official on Reports of Garang Visit to Chad

JN261512 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1447 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Oct (SUNA) — Mirghani Sulayman, acting under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, has affirmed that Sudan's relationship with Chad is good and fruitful in all fields. He added that the Foreign Ministry has no official information that John Garang is in Chad. He added that Sudan does not use rumors to assess its relations with Chad. Press reports had mentioned earlier that John Garang is in Chad.

SPLA Radio Notes Raids on Army Garrisons

EA231406 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 23 Oct 87

[Excerpts] SPLA forces of Nile Battalion, under the direct command of 1st Lieutenant Dominic Deng Deng, and overall command of Lieutenant Colonel Chuol Ayuwak, have raided and shelled the enemy garrison of Abyei. According to our correspondent in the area, seven enemy soldiers and two militamen were killed, and several others were injured. The SPLA commander in the area warned the citizens inside Abyei to immediately evacuate the town for their own safety, as shelling and raids will continue. [passage omitted]

Units of Shakkush [Hammer] Task Force No. 2, under the direct command of Major Dao Manyok and the overall command of Major James Wani Igga, alternate member of SPLM/SPLA Political-Military High Command and zonal commander of central and western Equatoria, raided Kajo Kaji Army garrison in the early hours of 19 October 1987. The correspondent says that four enemy soldiers were killed in the raid and several others were injured and a number of houses in the barracks were set alight. [passage omitted]

30 'Enemy' Troops Killed

EA240946 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 23 Oct 87

[Text] Thirty enemy soldiers were killed and several others injured in a battle with SPLA forces of Battalion 105 on 21 October 1987 at (Pan Zaraf) in central Upper Nile. A correspondent says that the SPLA forces, who are under the direct command of Major (Isaac Luk Riak) and overall command of Major John Kulang Fut, alternate member of SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Command [reported killed by SUNA late May 1987] also took many enemy soldiers POW. Among the POWs is 1st Lieutenant Muhammad Ali Harun. According to our correspondent, the battle was still continuing and further details will be brought to you in a later broadcast.

Tunisia

Iranian Aggression Against Kuwait Condemned

LD261436 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Official sources at the Foreign Ministry have said that Tunisia is following with great concern developments, and their possible threat to peace, in the Gulf region. Tunisia condemns Iran's unjust aggression against Kuwait by firing a missile on a Kuwaiti oil installation near Al-Ahmadi. Tunisia reaffirms its full support and backing of that peaceful country. It urges leaders of world public opinion and protectors of peace to put an end to the Iranian regime's contempt for international conventions and charters and to prevent the emergence of a state that would further complicate the situation in the Gulf and threaten world peace.

President Receives Arab League's Chedli Klibi

LD241427 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Oct 87

[Excerpt] His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba has received Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, in the presence of Zine EL Abidine Ben Ali, Amor Chedli, and Hedi Mabrouk. Chedli Klibi stated that he was honored to meet with his excellency the president and that he reviewed with him recent developments in the Gulf area and dangerous threats to the security and safety of our Arab states in this sensitive and economically important area.

The meeting also tackled UN Security Council Resolution 598, which calls for an end to the war, withdrawal to internationally recognized borders, and settlement of the conflict in conformity with international laws. His excellency noted the need for joint Arab and international efforts to guarantee the implementation of this resolution.

The secretary general of the Arab League said that he told the president about the latest consultations concerning the preparation of the Amman extraordinary summit. His excellency stressed the importance of this meeting, especially when Kuwait and all the Gulf states are facing greater dangers. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Lebanese President Al-Jumayyil Arrives for Talks

Welcomed by Amir

JN261042 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Manama, 26 Oct (WAKH)—Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil arrived in Manama from Abu Dhabi at noon today. His visit to Bahrain is part of a regional tour. During his stay, he will hold talks with His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, and senior officials. Talks will focus on bilateral relations, current Lebanese developments, and Gulf and Arab issues. Additional topics include preparations for the emergency Arab summit in Amman on 8 November and other subjects of mutual interest.

President al-Jumayyil was received on arrival by His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain; His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister; His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and Defense Force commander in chief; the ministers; and senior Bahraini civilian and military officials.

Holds Official Talks

JN261416 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1225 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Manama, 26 Oct (WAKH)—Official talks were held in Manama at noon today between a Bahraini delegation led by His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, and a Lebanese delegation led by Amin al-Jumayyil, president of Lebanon.

Bahrain's representatives at the talks included His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister; His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and Bahrain Defense Force commander in chief; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, foreign minister; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, interior minister; Shaykh 'Ali ibn Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, assistant under secretary to the interior minister for immigration and passport affairs; and Shaykh 'Abd al-Rahman ibn Faris Al Khalifah, director of administrative, financial, and consular affairs at the Foreign Ministry. Dr Jamil Ni'mah, public security director general, attended on behalf of Lebanon.

President al-Jumayyil arrived in Manama from Abu Dhabi earlier today in the course of a tour of a number of Arab countries.

Concludes Visit, Departs

NC261332 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil departed Bahrain at 1300 today following talks with Bahraini ruler Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah. An official source in Manama indicated that President al-Jumayyil's talks there centered on the situation in Lebanon, issues pertaining to the Gulf, and arrangements for next month's Amman summit.

Kuwait

Iraq's Ramadan, 'Aziz Arrive From Jeddah

JN260911 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Textl] Kuwait, 26 Oct (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, and Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived here today from Jeddah on a visit to Kuwait. They were received at the airport by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Iraq's ambassador to Kuwait.

Amir Given Saddam Husayn Note

LD261017 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0920 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 26 Oct (KUNA)—A high-ranking Iraqi official has conveyed a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. The contents of this message have not been revealed. Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister and member of the RCC, is accompanied by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, Taha Yasin Ramadan met with the Kuwaiti amir at 1000 today.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, minister of state for foreign affairs; and the Iraqi ambassador to Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Ramadan Comments on Talks

LD261123 Kuwait KUNA in English 0955 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 26 (KUNA)—The Iranian rulers will not cease warring as "long as circumstances" provide them with necessary assistance to continue fighting, Iraqi First Deputy Premier and member of the Revolution Command Council Taha Yasin Ramadan told KUNA here Monday.

Ramadan, who was speaking to KUNA following a meeting with Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, charged that the Iranian rulers harbor "a policy of aggression and expansionist ambitions."

The Iraqi official, who is accompanied by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, said in answering a question on his country's opinion over a possible Iranian acceptance of the Security Council Resolution 598 in view of developments in the region, "we cannot give a final stance based on our understanding of the Iranian rulers' mentality."

He added "our steadfastness along with an honorable Arab stand" achieve the desired for goals of prevailing the will of peace.

The meeting was attended by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, senior ministry officials, Iraqi Ambassador to Kuwait 'Asim Ya'qub Yusif and members of the accompanying delegation.

Ramadan said that he conveyed a message earlier today to H.H. the amir from President Saddam Husayn.

He added "the message falls in line with constant consultation and coordination between the two countries in face of challenges confronting the Arab nation in general and (those) facing Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in particular vis-a-vis the repeated Iranian aggressions."

The Iraqi official explained that such coordination further falls in line with furnishing positive circumstances to ensure success of the forthcoming Arab summit in Amman.

He expressed belief that at present Kuwait and Iraq, more than ever, sense the deep relationship, fraternity and joint understanding toward the nation's fateful causes.

Ramadan and the accompanying delegation left the country following a few hours visit. They were received and seen off by Shaykh Sabah, Al-'Usaymi, senior ministry officials and the Iraqi envoy to Kuwait.

Envoy to U.S. on Defense Aid, Iranian Attacks

LD261938 Kuwait KUNA in English 1753 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] London, Oct 26 (KUNA)—Kuwait's Ambassador to Washington Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah was quoted here Monday as linking a series of recent Iranian missile attacks on Kuwait to Tehran's desire to expand the spectrum of its war with Iraq.

But he strongly recommended self-restraint in the face of such aggressions "as not to let Iran succeed in its designs aimed at embroiling countries of the region in a confrontation with it."

In an interview published in the London-based, Arabic-language daily newspaper *Al-Sharq al-Awsat*, the Kuwaiti diplomat emphasized that neither Kuwait nor any other member of the Gulf Cooperation Council wants to be on a clash track with Iran.

"We want to live in peace with this neighbor...for it would be easy to enter into battles with Iran, and hard to bring those battles to an end," the Kuwaiti ambassador told the Saudi publication.

Responding to a question, Shaykh Sa'ud said the best way to halt the protracted Iran-Iraq war was for Arabs to unify their stand on the conflict.

Asked if the forthcoming Arab summit might provide an opportunity for such solidarity, he said the conference is widely hoped to settle inter-Arab disputes so that Arab countries address themselves to dangers threatening several of them.

Asked if his country would seek military assistance from Arab countries in case Iranian attacks posed a serious danger to Kuwait, the ambassador said:

"If developments reach that stage, Kuwait will undoubtedly look to its brethren in the Gulf and the Arab world for help and cooperation in the face of Iran...."

He emphasized that Arab countries are obliged to provide such assistance "not under a moral commitment but in accordance with treaties binding to all members of the Arab League."

The Kuwaiti official was apparently referring to a joint defense accord signed by all League members.

Queried about reports that there were Arab military advisers in Kuwait, Shaykh Sa'ud said his country was employing Arab military defensive expertise from different nationalities.

Those advisers, he added, were helping in training and organizing Kuwaiti Army units.

He, meanwhile, heaped praise on Saudi Arabia for "its honorable attitude toward Kuwait," in reference to Riyadh's quick condemnation of an Iranian missile attack on Kuwait last Friday and the Kingdom's pledge of military support to its GCC partner.

Shaykh Sa'ud hoped all Arab countries would take a similar attitude toward the "predicament Kuwait is going through."

Commenting on an American retaliatory strike against Iran in the Gulf last week, the Kuwaiti ambassador believed the American action would serve as a deterrent to Iran and was unlikely to increase tension in the region.

But he at the same time pointed out that the "seriousness" of the American move lies in the possibility that it would make Kuwait prone to Iranian responses that Tehran dare not aim at U.S. interests.

"Iran is now settling its score with America at the expense of Kuwait," he said.

The ambassador denied reports that in part of coordination between Washington and Kuwait, the latter has had prior knowledge about the U.S. attack on the Iranian oil platform in the Gulf last week.

On whether Kuwait asked the U.S. and other countries to help it build an anti-missile defense system to repulse Iranian attacks, Shaykh Sa'ud indicated that contacts in this respect were under way with several parties, including the U.S.

"...We have been and are still examining whatever defensive means available to protect our country from threats and repeated aggressions," he said.

Paper Urges Review of USSR, PRC Relations

JN242027 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 23 Oct 87 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "From Behind the Veil"]

[Text] The current situation in the Arabian Gulf appears to be a dispute between two parties over the legitimacy of existence and control. This dispute takes place in the absence of Arab legitimacy. In the absence of this latter legitimacy, the clash between the two former types takes various forms. This clash will create additional crises and lead to continued negative behavior toward all solutions and settlements. The superpowers have not yet agreed on the necessary means of implementing Security Council Resolution 598, although current circumstances are critical and Iran's acts of aggression against Kuwait may lead to further escalation and revenge. This is because the Soviet Union is not interested in either a settlement or a stop to the fighting. Its sole concern is to find a foothold in the region to build bridges of friendship and cooperation with Iran and enjoy a honeymoon with Iran like the one between the United States and that country during the shah's reign.

The Soviet Union, which shares a 1,200-km border with Iran, views the Gulf conflict through the Afghan lens. It looks forward to an Iranian initiative to alleviate the problem of its presence in Afghanistan in return for Soviet stands at the Security Council hampering the international resolution and giving Iran more time to avoid its implementation. Thus, the Soviet Union will allow Iran to enter into a political and military duel with the United States in the Gulf, turning that region into an arena of conflict and a zone of extreme volatility.

The Soviets are suffering from a complex. Unlike the Americans and Europeans, the Russians do not enjoy any influence in the Gulf, influence that could make them an acceptable party to the region's countries and help them compete with the West in international bargaining. Therefore, the Russians exploited the Iraq-Iran war to take negative positions. As a superpower with interests, the Soviet Union escalated regional conflicts to preserve its interests and defend its new presence. It created a clash between the United States and Iran to further its influence, participate in a solution, and hold the keys to the crisis.

The United States says it will retaliate, while Iran says it will take revenge. The Russians are standing outside the ring, encouraging the two sides to display further talents and escalate the situation to make it more interesting. In fact, the tragic Soviet policy in the Gulf is the same one we have seen in the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question. It is a cheap and vague policy. Those who pursue it know how to exploit circumstances and contradictions. It is a hypocritical and risky policy aimed at maintaining interests and escalating conflicts.

Despite this, things are not simple, and Iranian-Soviet coordination is the overt part of the game. It is the ugliest part of the Iranian-Israeli farce. The two parties' common denominators are Israeli weapons for Iran and Iranian and Soviet Jews sent in exchange to Israel. The Arabs, who are the game's victim and subject, are aware of this. The only way they can defend themselves is by making statements at Klibi's League, the Security Council, and the United Nations.

Thus, the Soviets and Europeans agree on one point: their joint interests. What is important to them is playing a role in crises and dangerous situations to balance their long-term objectives and strategic interests. We in the Gulf are lost. We suffer from Soviet maneuvers, European evasions, and their negative policies and positions. We did not expect the PRC to join them and play its role with its Silkworm missiles. These missiles have enabled the PRC to join the superpowers, play a part in the war festivals, and enter the Gulf region after earlier entering it with friendly slogans and false cooperation.

We believe we should not waste time. As a Gulf state, we should reconsider our relations with the Soviet Union and the PRC in light of their positions on Iran's repeated acts of aggression against Kuwait. We should do this because the war will not end unless we are ready to take decisive stands against those who follow false policies and sell friendship to us while giving weapons, Jews, and missiles to our enemies. We should reconsider these relations even if this leads to their freezing or severing.

Oman

Deputy Premier Comments on Gulf War, Iran Ties

PM241353 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 16 Oct 87 pp 19-21

[Interview with Fahd ibn Mahmud Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs, by Farid al-Khatib in Muscat; date not given]

[Excerpts] *Al-Hawadith*: Do you foresee a quick end to the Iraq-Iran war in light of diplomatic, regional, and international efforts for this purpose?

Fahd ibn Mahmud Al Sa'id: The Iraq-Iran war can be ended quickly only if both sides agree and respond completely to the continuous international efforts made at all levels since the war began. This work has culminated in the current efforts of the United Nations. We in Oman now believe that this international organization is more qualified than any other party to play an effective role in helping both sides reach a settlement to end this destructive war. For the first time, Security Council Resolution 598 reflects an international consensus on a specific formula for settling the conflict. We feel that this opportunity should be taken and work to implement the resolution should be intensified. We thus hope that both sides will respond to the role of the United Nations and its secretary general. We appeal to both parties to display sufficient flexibility to allow an end to the conflict and the conclusion of a settlement sparing both peoples continued suffering. Such a settlement would also permit the sides to rebuild what was destroyed in more than 7 years and open a new chapter of peaceful coexistence.

Al-Hawadith: How important are the Sultanate of Oman's relations with Iran in ending the war?

Fahd ibn Mahmud Al Sa'id: From the start, the Sultanate of Oman has pursued an unequivocal policy of maintaining good relations with the fraternal Republic of Iraq and good-neighborly relations with Iran. This creates the right atmosphere for reconciling views and reduces the intensity of the conflict. In addition, the preordained ties of faith, proximity, and mutual interests necessitate cooperation among all regional states to keep them out of international conflicts. Within this framework, the Sultanate's position always reflects the strong desire for coordination between both sides. At the same time, we in Oman support and bless any step by either party, or by both of them, in response to international efforts to end this war. This is what the states of the region are trying to do through separate or collective actions. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: Why do you reject the idea of the Arab League states severing diplomatic relations with Iran?

Fahd ibn Mahmud Al Sa'id: Despite the fact that this subject has not been raised in the Arab League in a way suggesting that the League is about to make such a decision, I would like to mention a fundamental principle: Breaking diplomatic relations is not an effective way of dealing with present problems, especially for those states bound by strong ties of faith, proximity, and common interests. After all, if we break relations with such states, outside parties would be encouraged to interfere, thus creating more problems and complications. In addition, this would give rise to sensitivities and would have a negative effect on people. At the same time, I would like to emphasize that no one can condone transgressions that threaten international navigation in the Gulf, endanger innocent lives, and harm regional states, especially those of the GCC. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: The Sultanate of Oman announced it would provide facilities to the British Navy to safeguard the freedom of international navigation in the Gulf. Are these facilities restricted to Britain, or are they also available to other Western countries?

Fahd ibn Mahmud Al Sa'id: The Sultanate offered these facilities after it determined they would be used to safeguard freedom of navigation in the Gulf. These are normal facilities granted according to certain conditions to aid minesweepers in removing mines from the Gulf in the interests of the international community.

Al-Hawadith: What is the significance of your establishing diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and the present improvement of these ties?

Fahd ibn Mahmud Al Sa'id: Diplomatic relations between the Sultanate and the Soviet Union have absolutely nothing to do with any regional situations or circumstances. Actually, agreement on this move came through contacts over a long period of time, when the Soviet Union began to take a new and positive approach to the region. Consequently, the Sultanate and the states of the region accepted this new approach from a superpower with international influence and major responsibilities for international peace and cooperation. This move was announced over 2 years ago in light of all this, as well as of the common ground for establishing ties of mutual respect for the principles and traditions of international relations. Relations between the two countries have proceeded normally since then.

PDRY

Al-Dali Condemns U.S. 'Attack' on Iran

LD252145 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 25 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 25, IRNA—Iranian Ambassador to Aden Hasan Aminian conferred with Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) on Tehran-Aden relations, the U.S. military build-up in the region as well as the U.S. attack on Iran's oil rigs, in the Yemenese capital Sunday.

Adverting [as received] to the military presence of the U.S. and NATO forces in the region the Yemeni official said his country seriously calls for the withdrawal of all foreign forces. The region will not be safe as long as the U.S. forces are present, he added.

Al-Dali said his country condemns the U.S. military aggression against the Islamic Republic's integrity. Yemen will be and has been beside the Islamic Republic for the cause of struggling against imperialism and Zionism, he concluded.

Al-Bid Renews Support for Soviet Peace Plan

EA251650 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
2030 GMT 24 Oct 87

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, has renewed Democratic Yemen's full support for all peace initiatives designed to remove tension and restore peace in the region. This includes Soviet initiatives concerning the Gulf region and the entire Middle East.

In a statement to a correspondent from the Soviet news agency TASS, the brother secretary general explained that the situation in the Gulf is very dangerous and arouses great concern. This is because the imperialist countries, especially the United States and its NATO allies, continue to kindle the situation there.

PLO Chairman 'Arafat Arrives for Consultations

EA240918 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 23 Oct 87

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived in Aden yesterday evening for a short visit in our country. During his stay, he will meet with party and state leaders for consultations on recent Palestinian and Arab developments.

In a statement to ANA, Brother Yasir 'Arafat explained that his visit is part of a tour of a number of sisterly states for talks and the coordination of issues that will be presented during the upcoming Arab summit. He pointed out that the Amman summit will be held while the Arab community faces dangerous and crucial circumstances. In his statement, he praised the principled and firm positions of Democratic Yemen, which stands beside the Palestinian people under all circumstances, particularly in a period when the occupied territories have seen the Palestinian masses rise up against the Israeli occupation.

He was received by Brothers Salih Munassir al-Siyayli, member of the Political Bureau, deputy prime minister, and minister of interior; 'Abd al-Jalil Ghaylan, deputy secretary of the Central Committee; and (Muhammad Abu Shamat), the PLO representative in Aden.

Meets With Al-'Attas

EA240923 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 23 Oct 87

[Text] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, met this afternoon with Brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and his delegation. During the meeting, they reviewed the warm and militant relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions, as well as ways of consolidating and developing them. The participants also examined the situation in the Arab and international arenas, particularly the arrangements for the success of the extraordinary Arab summit. That meeting will be held in the Jordanian capital of Amman on 8 November.

Saudi Arabia

King, Ministers View Oil Prices, Domestic Issues

LD262019 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, chaired a meeting of the Council of Ministers this afternoon, Monday, 26 October 1987.

Following the session, his excellency the information minister, 'Ali al-Sha'ir, told the *Saudi Press Agency* that the king briefed the council on his talks and meetings with senior guests and emissaries who visited the Kingdom last week. The discussions covered consultations on various events in the Arab world at this critical juncture of its history.

The foreign guests and envoys included: Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Iraqi RCC and first deputy prime minister, who brought a message from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and was accompanied by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; His Highness Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, Bahraini interior minister, who delivered a note from His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain; His Excellency Dr Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, the UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources, who conveyed a message from His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE; Martin Bangemann, FRG economics minister; and General Pires Goncalves Leonidas, Brazilian minister of the Army.

Minister al-Sha'ir added: The custodian of the two holy mosques then viewed economic, financial, and organizational affairs with the council. In discussing the oil market, the king stated: The Kingdom does not favor increasing the price of crude oil for the present and not until the end of 1988 at the earliest. It then would favor such a move only if it were known that there was a real increase in demand. After all, if OPEC members increase

oil prices when non-OPEC producers can sell on spot markets at prices they want, OPEC's share of the market will decrease. This will encourage increased output by non-OPEC producers, thus bringing great pressure on member states' production and sales.

The custodian of the two holy mosques added that the market stability OPEC succeeded in attaining this year should continue for a long period. This will allow producers and consumers to plan their development with clear vision and firm foundations.

The minister of information continued: As for financial affairs, the king directed the ministers to continue cooperating closely while preparing the general budget for the coming fiscal year. They should also consider financial guidelines approved by the state for the previous budget. He urged the ministers to limit spending to necessary items, giving priority to salaries of officials—both civilian and military—and payments to citizens. They should then make payments to national and foreign companies after completing procedures, as was stressed at a previous council meeting.

The king and the council discussed organizational matters, and ordered that all citizens who call on ministries should see administrative department heads to complete their papers and other formalities as quickly as possible. The ministers should continue to delegate supervisors to keep track of business and evaluate officials, according to post and specialization, and to submit periodic reports to ministers. This will permit the latter to decide on promotions for hardworking officials regardless of seniority and bypass lazy officials. This will be an incentive for hardworking officials to work twice as hard.

The king reviewed the question of guarantees and financial advances with the council, and recommended a bylaw be passed defining legal obligations, thus saving the state apparatus a great deal of effort.

The information minister added: Turning to the health sector, the custodian of the two holy mosques examined development of health services in the civil and military sectors. He stressed that the definition of those deserving medical treatment at state facilities must be reviewed. This will reduce the great pressure on specialized hospitals and allow those who actually need treatment to receive it.

Minister al-Sha'ir noted: The council continued with its agenda and issued a number of decisions, including:

1. To authorize the foreign minister or his delegate to sign a draft agreement concerning the GCC Headquarters as previously decided, on the condition that the original signed copy be submitted to the Council of Ministers for preparation of a royal decree.

2. To approve the renewal of the commercial and economic agreement between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Lebanese Republic for 1 year, beginning 22 October 1987.

3. The council approved the funds spent by the general establishment for petroleum and minerals on medical treatment of its employees in special hospitals during the past fiscal year and in fiscal 1983-84. This sum totaled 9,510,969 riyals.

The information minister concluded his statement by saying that the council issued other decisions related to local affairs and referred some issues to the Council of Ministers' general committee for further action and submission to future council meetings.

Algerian Foreign Minister Arrives in Jeddah

LD261207 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1027 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 26 Oct (SPA)—The Algerian foreign minister, His Excellency Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, arrived in Jeddah this morning on an official visit to the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

Delivers Message to King Fahd

LD262142 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2011 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Jeddah, 26 Oct (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, has received a message from his brother, His Excellency Chadli Bendjedid, the Algerian president. The message was conveyed to the king by His Excellency Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, the Algerian foreign minister, who was received at Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah this evening. The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; Muhammad Hasan al-Faqi, ambassador of the custodian of the two holy mosques to Algeria; and Abdelkarim Ghraieb, Algerian ambassador to the Kingdom.

United Arab Emirates

Lebanese President Arrives on Official Visit

JN251617 Manama WAKH in English 1557 GMT 25 Oct 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct 25 (GNA)—Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil arrived here this evening on a two-day official visit to the United Arab Emirates.

He was received at the airport by President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

He was also received by Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad, Head of the Planning Department Shaykh Saif ibn Muhammad, Shaykh Sultan ibn Zayid,

Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid, as well as number of shaykhs, cabinet ministers, and Lebanese Ambassador Nizar Shamas.

Meets Zayid, Departs

JN260909 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0850 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 26 Oct (WAKH)—Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil departed Abu Dhabi for Bahrain at noon today following a 2-day official visit to the UAE.

His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the UAE president, led those who saw him off. His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, heir apparent and Armed Forces deputy supreme commander; His Highness Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad, deputy prime minister; and a number of UAE officials were also present.

Shaykh Zayid and the Lebanese president held a round of talks this morning. Their discussions focused on current Arab developments, perticularly the situation in Lebanon and bilateral relations.

Ramadan, 'Aziz Deliver Messages to President

JN261844 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1822 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Oct (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received RCC members Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister, and Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, following their return from official visits to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

During their visits, the two RCC members delivered messages from President Saddam Husayn to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques and monarch of Saudi Arabia, and to Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait. The messages dealt with the strong fraternal relations between Iraq and both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, as well as the current situation in the region and the dangers confronting it. The messages also dealt with the ongoing preparations to convene an Arab summit conference in Amman on 8 November.

Both King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah asked Taha Yasin Ramadan and Tariq 'Aziz to convey their fraternal greetings to President Saddam Husayn.

Communique No 2,887 Details 25-26 Oct Combat

JN261730 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Communique No 2,887 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 26 October]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With all determination and faithfulness to the soil of this homeland, our victorious forces continue to destroy the strongholds of tyranny and aggression, inflicting further losses on the sinful Khomeyniites. The following is a roundup of activities for last night and today:

1. Our courageous units in the VII Army Corps sector killed 21 aggressors, destroyed an infantry position, set ablaze and destroyed a large vehicle, and blew up an ammunition dump.

2. Three infantry positions and one single-barreled machinegun were destroyed and their occupants killed; one vehicle was set ablaze and destroyed and another was damaged; and three ammunition dumps were blown up in the I Army corps northern sector.

3. Three scoundrels were killed and one infantry position was destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector. Another scoundrel was killed in the Special I Army Corps sector of the Allahu Akbar Forces.

4. In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, two enemy personnel were killed, one 106-mm gun mounted on a vehicle was destroyed, and a bulldozer and an observation post were destroyed.

5. Six enemy soldiers were killed and one large vehicle was destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 26 October 1987

Oil Ministry To Receive Computer System

JN261702 Baghdad INA in English 1520 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, Oct. 26, INA—An international specialised company will supply and install a computerised system for the Iraqi Oil Ministry at an expense of two million Iraqi dinars (6.3 million dollars), under a contract signed here today.

The project which will be completed within 12 months includes the setting-up of two computers and four networks as well as substations linking companies and installations affiliated to the Iraqi Oil Ministry.

The first computer will be used for oil exploration and drilling operations while the second will be used for pooling engineering, financial and administrative data. The project is aimed at upgrading productive and extractive operations in the oil industry to cope with the overall development of the Iraqi oil sector.

Shamir Bows to Tehiya on No-Confidence Motion

TA270830 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0600 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Excerpt] The Tehiya faction will not raise its no-confidence motion in the Knesset today with regard to the prime minister's reported agreement to limited superpower involvement in the peace process. At the Tehiya's request, another statement denying the rumors was issued yesterday by the Prime Minister's Office. Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports:

This is the third denial issued by Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, in the past week. The present denial is somewhat more extreme than its predecessors. It says: The prime minister objects to any intervention by any foreign country in the direct negotiations between Israel and its neighbors. This statement was issued following a meeting last night between the prime minister and Knesset Member Yuval Ne'eman, the Tehiya faction chairman. The Tehiya had demanded an outright denial of the reports that Yitzhaq Shamir agrees to limited involvement of the two superpowers in the political process. The Tehiya had said it would withdraw its motion of no- confidence in the government only if such a statement were made. [passage omitted]

Officials Comment on Possible U.S. Cuts in Aid

Peres Sees No Adverse Effects

TA261445 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1430 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said today that the Wall Street crisis should not affect U.S. aid to Israel. The remarks were made at a ceremony marking the beginning of the school year at Hadassah College, Jerusalem. Minister Peres reported that Israel had received a written promise from the United States after the cancellation of the Lavi project saying that U.S. aid would not be harmed this year or the next.

Advises 'Drastic' U.S. Steps

TA270952 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0930 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] The economic problems of the United States do not lie in the collapse of the New York Stock Exchange, Shim'on Peres said today. He proposed that the Americans take drastic measures lest the U.S. economy experience a severe crisis.

[Begin Peres recording] The woe afflicting the U.S. economy comes from the deficit both in the state budget, which amounts to some $20 billion a year, and in the balance of payments, which amounts to $15-$16 billion a month. In my opinion, if the U.S. Government does not take real measures, what now looks like a temporary indisposition might turn into a serious illness. I am saying this because we have also experienced similar phenomena, and such illnesses cannot be cured by a magic spell. [end recording]

Rabin Says Commitment Exists

TA261717 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1700 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] This evening Defense Mnister Yitzhaq Rabin declared that Israel will not give up U.S. military aid. In a conversation with Menahem Horowitz, our correspondent in the north, Minister Rabin added that Israel has a written commitment from the U.S. Administration that the level of aid for the coming fiscal year will remain at its current level.

[Begin Rabin recording] It is not just as charity that Israel is receiving U.S. aid. I think it is in U.S. interests that Israel should be strong. Relative to defense expenses and U.S. foreign aid over the whole world, we are receiving very little in comparison with the return embodied in the existence of a strong Israel, in the stragic cooperation between us and the United States. [end recording]

Inclination To Take Cut Cited

TA261254 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Oct 87 p 1

[Report by Shraga Meckel, 'Imanu'el Rosen, and Rafi Mann]

[Excerpts] Jerusalem is leaning toward forgoing U.S. military aid to the sum of approximately $80 million next year, as a goodwill gesture. Washington has already started checking out Israel's willingness to cut military aid, and contacts have been made between the two sides.

In the wake of Reagan's remarks on intended budget cuts, Jerusalem is concerned that if Israel does not show willingness to meet the United States halfway, it might spark an undesirable reaction in Washington. Another reason for its inclination to forgo the aid is the atmosphere in the United States following the Wall Street crash. [passage omitted]

In yesterday's Cabinet session, Defense Minister Rabin said that Israel must make sure the military aid from the United States is not harmed as a result of the expected U.S. budget cuts.

"Israel will soon have to decide whether to make a cut or fight against it," according to sources in Jerusalem. Over the past few days, senior political sources reached the assessment that Israel had best not wage a struggle and should undertake a small cut. Contrary to this, there are senior officials who believe Israel must not agree to cut the aid. [passage omitted]

Acceptance of Aid Cut Denied

TA261257 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1230 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] The spokesmen for the Defense and Finance Ministries have reacted to a report in one of today's papers which said that Israel will forgo U.S. military aid to the sum of approximately $80 million, saying there is no such intention and it has never been discussed. On the contrary, during yesterday's Cabinet session it was agreed—in accordance with the defense minister's proposal—that Israel will insist on receiving all the aid, especially in view of the fact that the administration has made a written commitment to this effect to the defense and finance ministers.

Political Sources Fear Tougher Husayn Position

TA261237 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
26 Oct 87 p 3

[Report by Ilan Kfif]

[Text] People in Israel are afraid that King Husayn may toughen his political positions on the peace process as a result of the failure of Shultz' mission in the Middle East and Moscow. Senior Israeli political sources claim that the king may toughen his political positions as the Arab summit, scheduled to open in Amman on 8 Novemver, approaches.

Hadashot has learned that in anticipation of the Arab summit, Arab leaders are exerting pressure on Husayn to renege on his far-reaching understanding with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Concern has been expressed in Israel that Shultz' failure to bring about a breakthrough might cause Husayn to effect a tactical withdrawal from some of the understandings as a goodwill gesture toward the Arab leaders.

Husayn is awaiting the arrival in Amman of Syrian President al-Asad, Libyan leader Al-Qadhdhafi, and PLO leader 'Arafat, among others. Israel is concerned that a rapprochement between Husayn and 'Arafat, which would include a coordination of their political positions, might make the next stages of the political process more difficult.

One of the first signals of a possible change in Husayn's position is the king's rejection of Shultz' proposal for U.S.-Soviet auspices as a substitute to the international conference. Husayn has informed Shultz that without an international conference with the participation of the five powers and under UN auspices, he will not enter direct negotiations with Israel.

Effect of Moscow 'Failure' in Mideast Analyzed

TA261616 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
26 Oct 87 p A10

[Commentary by Moshe Zaq: "The Lessons of the Moscow Failure"—passages in boldface as published]

[Text] In a letter sent to Israel in the spring of 1986, the Soviet Union warned this country against joining the U.S. Star Wars program. It said, among other things:

"The leadership in Israel cannot but recognize the fact that by helping to turn space into a zone of inter-superpower hostility it will increase tension in the world and in the Middle East. The increased tension will undoubtedly damage the chance for a settlement in the Middle East, a settlement that would satisfy the interests of all the nations in the area."

These words contained a dual warning, to both the United States and Israel: to the United States, that the Star Wars program would increase inter-superpower tension; and to Israel, that joining in this program would prevent a settlement of the Israeli-Arab dispute. Soviet representatives also raised this issue in their talks with Israeli representatives. And Israel, in an answer to Moscow, reiterated that **"Israel and its people feel no hostility toward the Soviet Union and its people. The Strategic Defense Initiative does not conflict with this."**

The U.S.-Soviet strategic arms limitation talks were unable to make progress until Moscow removed the precondition about the cancellation of the Star Wars program. As soon as Gorbachev discarded this condition, the path was opened up to the missiles agreement due to be signed at a Reagan-Gorbachev summit.

Secretary of State Shultz went to Moscow to complete the preparations for a summit in Washington next month, but disappointment awaited him in Moscow. Gorbachev is not prepared to go to Washington without an advance promise by Reagan to cancel the Star Wars program. No more, no less. He wants the U.S. President to make a public admission that he has erred. Thus he would be retreating from his program and surrendering to the Soviet leader's demand to cancel Star Wars in order to pave the way for the desired summit.

What led Gorbachev to flex his muscles to Reagan in this way, after having courted the U.S. Administration for many months with many gestures to obtain economic and technological benefits from it?

The secret of the change lies in Gorbachev's second thoughts, that the expected economic slump in the United States would not be the right time to obtain economic benefits from Reagan.

But the main impetus for the change originates in Gorbachev's feeling that the Reagan administration is now in distress. It is more in need of the great show

called a summit; so in the view of Soviet experts, Reagan would have no alternative but to pay a higher price for the pleasure of meeting with Gorbachev, and even to surrender to the dictate and cancel Star Wars.

Shultz did not panic over Gorbachev's ultimatum. His answer was sophisticated: A missile agreement can be signed even without a Reagan-Gorbachev meeting. That is, the Soviets should not see the summit as being absolutely essential for the Reagan administration. It can get by without it.

The great expectations fostered by the U.S. media toward the summit in Washington raised Gorbachev's standing in the political stock exchanges. He assumed that the Reagan administration would be unable to absorb the blow of his refusal to go to the U.S. President. The Soviet Union would therefore be able to retract its previous concession on Star Wars. But Shultz was not prepared to pay the stiff price for Gorbachev's visit to Washington. Because he rejected this demand, the world media described his mission to Moscow as a failure. And indeed, he did fail to set the summit meeting, the level of expectations for which were beyond its genuine importance. But he did succeed in proving to the Soviets that the summit should be in the interests of both sides. For the Americans it is not an urgent necessity, one for which the United States has to concede its vital interests.

This rejection also contained a certain lesson for Israel. In negotiations between countries, care should be taken not to give the other side the impression that you have no alternative, that you need a meeting so much that you are prepared to concede matters of substance for its sake. Such an image does not help in conducting negotiations. On the contrary, it can pile up difficulties to the point of foiling them.

The failure in Moscow does not necessarily presage a stop to immigration from the Soviet Union. It is not inconceivable that the temporary crisis will actually increase the Soviet Union's gestures to the Jews of the United States. The Soviets will try to influence the feelings of the large and influential Jewish community in the domestic U.S. fight over Star Wars. The Soviets have openly told Israeli representatives, both official and unofficial, that they believe in the power of Israel's influence over the Jews of the United States.

In talks in Moscow on 19 November 1965, Mikhail Suslov and Boris Ponomarev told representatives of the communists in Israel: **"There can be an Israeli contribution to promoting its relations with the Soviet Union if it helps lessen international tension by using its channels of influence in the Western world."**

It is conceivable that Soviet diplomats will now try to "recruit" Israel, as a means to soften U.S. public opinion, on the matter of the Soviet Union's incorporation into the negotiations for a settlement of the Israeli-Arab dispute. This possibility appears more reasonable than the alternative, that the Soviet Union will now step up its pressure on Israel, a country that has joined Star Wars, to weaken the front of countries that support this program.

To conclude, even if nothing was agreed in Moscow regarding the Israeli-Arab negotiations, Israel may come out ahead due to the USSR's need now to increase its courting of U.S. public opinion.

Begun Terms IZVESTIYA Article 'Slander'

TA261519 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Oct 87, pp A1, 2

[Report by AFP and *Ma'ariv* service]

[Excerpts] Former Prisoner of Zion Yosef Begun yesterday described as "slander" an article that appeared that same day in the Soviet Government's official organ *Izvestiya*, which said that an Israeli had persuaded him to remain in the Soviet Union to continue with his activity on behalf of the Jews. [passage omitted]

Authoritative Israeli sources have explained that the Israeli position is clear and unambiguous: Anybody who receives an exit visa from the Soviet Union must leave as quickly as possible without any delay, and that includes Yosef Begun.

An investigation into the government and public officials involved revealed that no such element had made any recommendation to Begun or anybody else, either directly or indirectly, to delay departure from the Soviet Union. These elements view the report claiming that this advice was given to Begun as slander and an attempt to harm the fight for the departure of Jews from the Soviet Union.

Peres Expresses Concern for Jews in Arab Lands

TA270815 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Oct 87 p 2

[Report by Dvorah Getzler]

[Text] When the time and occasion are ripe, Israel will press for material restitution for Jewish property abandoned in Arab countries, Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Peres told the Knesset yesterday.

Peres, speaking in a debate on the plight of Jews in these countries, said that since 1967, and in contrast to how neighbouring countries had behaved, Israel had given 100,000 permits for the reunification of Arab families within the administered territories, i.e. 100,000 Arabs had been admitted, or re-admitted to the territories since 1967.

The foreign minister expressed the gravest concern for the future of Jews still in Iran (some 28,000), for the 6,000 still in Syria and for those in Yemen and certain other North African countries.

Iran's Jewish community should exploit the few remaining chances to leave, he urged.

The peace with Egypt, Peres said, had set a precedent for neighbourly Arab-Israel relations. He also singled out for praise the efforts being made by the Moroccan ruler and his government to maintain good relations with former Moroccan Jews.

Many Israelis from Arab lands, said Peres, wanted to play a part in seeing the Middle East blessed with peace, rather than riven with strife.

The debate, initiated by Likud MK [Knesset Member] Eliyahu Ben-Elisar and Yahad's Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, was timed to coincide with the opening in New York of the conference of the World Organization of Jews from Arab countries.

Gilbo'a Report on Arab Minority Analyzed

TA261432 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
26 Oct 87 p A3

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Text] After years of neglect, the Israeli Government within the next few weeks will be required to deal with the minority community here. A document, prepared in the office of former minister Moshe Arens and now being given the finishing touches in coordination with Deputy Minister Roni Milo, makes an attempt to characterize the situation in the Arab sector and determine the principles of the government's minorities policy.

Brigadier General (Reserves) 'Amos Gilbo'a, the current adviser on Arab affairs who coordinated work on the document, has accumulated much experience in the preparation of national assessments and working programs. Last year he made an attempt to approach the issue of the Israeli Arabs systematically in all its aspects, consulting with many elements.

According to his description, what is in question is a national problem of prime importance requiring a broad consensus of all the Zionist parties with the two large parties at the center. In the authors' view, as long as there is no permanent peace between Israel and the Arab countries it will be impossible to eliminate the polarization between the Jews and a section of the minority community.

In their view, therefore, what should be aimed at is equality and integration among the minorities and the Jewish majority. This aim requires the allocation of resources and the creation of an atmosphere that provides the minorities with the feeling of being an inseparable part of the state. The plan to return the people who were uprooted from Iqrit and Kefar Bar'am [two Arab villages in the Galilee whose inhabitants were driven out in 1948 and promised that they would be given back their land] to their historical lands is part of the attempt to create a new atmosphere of trust. Some people say that without this move there will be no chance that the other political principles will materialize.

To encourage those members of the minorities who tend to identify with the state and who isolate those identifying with the PLO, it is proposed that more than $150 million be invested in the Arab sector over the next 5 years. At the same time the government is being called upon to encourage volunteering for the IDF as a supreme expression of loyalty to the state, integration in it, and identification with it, while preserving the minorities' special identifications.

The document's authors are proposing that some $50 million be allocated to the minorities sector over the next 5 years for the development of roads; about $57 million for development in the municipal sphere; $22.5 million for the construction of classrooms; $22.5 million for the development of the Bedouin settlements; and about $3 million for the Waqf.

In addition to investments, an enormous effort must be made to reduce hostility and alienation. The government ministries will be required to use forms and signs in two languages, Arabic and Hebrew. The government must encourage minorities to participate in making those decisions. It needs to involve them, increase the study of the Hebrew language, and expand public education efforts for tolerance and mutual respect among the Jewish population. Together with this the ministers are called upon to increase the frequency of visits to minority settlements and increase their representatives' participation in the state's ceremonies and symbolic activities.

A depressing current tendency has emerged from the report. Certain elements in the Arab sector are working toward a severance from the Israeli establishment. Also,a gradual construction of the infrastructure for Arab autonomy within the Green Line has begun.

Three basic processes are now occurring in the Arab sector:

A. Economic progress, modernization, and "Westernization," which are creating a basis for the population's integration into the life of the state.

B. Palestinianization, taking the form of an increase in solidarity with the Arabs of the territories and the national struggle, something that has led to a reinforcement of the link with the PLO. This phenomenon applies to the entire Arab population in Israel and the territories as one body.

C. Israelization. The document states that most of the minority community, most of whom were born or educated in Israel, do not share in the violent Palestinian struggle.

The goal of the document's authors is to try to encourage the trends of Israelization and modernization over that of Palestinianization in an effort to contend with the demographic forecasts. According to the forecasts, in the year 2000 minority inhabitants in Israel will number 1,383,000 compared with 4,126,000 Jews. That is, some 29 percent will be from the minorities, compared with 17 percent today.

Arab Leaders Assail Report

TA270932 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 27 Oct 87 p 4

[Report by Qasim Zayyad]

[Text] The leaders of the Arab community in Israel have leveled harsh criticism at the Arens-Gilbo'a report and have called its authors "cowards who are burying their heads in the sand and slandering a loyal and faithful community." The national committee of heads of the Arab authorities will react officially to the report within the next few days.

The leaders of the Arab community claim the report in no way reflects the genuine mood among the Arab population and ignores reality, sins against the truth, and "serves the devotees of the transfer."

The spokesmen stressed that for the 40 years of Israel's existence, the Arabs of Israel have proved that they are loyal citizens fighting to win their rights honorably.

The leaders of the Arab community have called on the government not to adopt the report, which is a pretext for perpetuating discrimination. "The government must regard the Arabs as citizens with equal rights and not as hostages or foreign nationals."

The leaders of the Arab community also warned against the tendency toward "divide and rule" among the Arab sects, as they believe the report is trying to do.

In reaction to the Arens-Gilbo'a report, Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah (Alignment) said the report is full of contradictions and distortions.

Darawshah asserted that the claim in the reports that Israeli Arabs are getting organized in a "hostile" manner is greatly exagerated. On the other hand, the report calls on the government to introduce genuine integration and equality for the Arab citizens. Darawshah does not lightly dismiss some of the report's conclusions which he sees as positive. Darawshah welcomes the Arens-Gilbo'a report's recommendations on funneling resources to the Arab sector, working out a 5-year plan, and returning the uprooted villagers to Kefar Bar'am and Iqrit.

In Darawshah's view, the general formulation of the report is misleading because it is based on data and partial facts taken out of context.

MK Darawshah says Israeli Arabs are interested in increasing their involvement in political, social, and economic life, and do not under any circumstances want to "sit on the fence."

MK Darawshah believes the Arabs of Israel have kept faith with the country even when Israel was in a state of war with Arab countries.

In the view of the head of the Baqa al-Gharbiyya council, Samir Darwish, during the short period when he was serving as the minister responsible for Arab sector affairs, Minister Arens apparently did not manage to study the genuine mood among the Arab population.

In Darwish's view, the report's authors interpret the struggle of the Arab community for equality and rights as the desire to win autonomy, and this is not so.

The head of the Sakhnin Council, Muhad Ghunaym, said the report constitutes wild incitement against the Arabs of Israel and blackens their name. Ghunaym rejects the conclusions in the report which say there is organized subversion among the Arabs of Israel.

Ghunaym praised the way Weizman had handled Arab affairs. "Weizman helped to find solutions to many problems, and his term in office was the golden age for the Arabs of Israel."

Rabin Claims Success in Lebanon, Territories

TA261525 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 26 Oct 87 p 2

[Report by Tali Zelinger and Shim'on Weiss]

[Excerpt] Israel has withdrawn IDF and South Lebanese Army forces from two posts in the area of Al-Haqban, in the western part of the central area of the security zone, in a bid to bring back the civilian population to the villages in the area. Defense Minister Rabin made this statement to military correspondents yesterday.

The two posts, which have been targets of recurring attacks and incidents, were evacuated, with a UNIFIL force being invited to man one of them. The other post is to remain evacuated, and several Amal attempts to seize control have been repelled.

The defense minister noted the relative calm presently prevailing in the security zone. He pointed out that some of the people who led Hizballah attacks several months ago have been killed in battle. This fact apparently caused a decrease in the number of attacks. Rabin believes that the return of the population to the villages on both sides of the security zone will contribute to the relative calm.

Speaking about the situation in Gaza, the defense minister expressed satisfaction over the success in foiling extensive organizing attempts by the Islamic Jihad people, who were responsible for most of the attacks in the area over the last 2 years. Rabin pointed out that the Islamic Jihad people belonged to 'Arafat's PLO, and stressed the need to separate the fanatic religious element from political frictions in Gaza and the West Bank. Minister Rabin made clear that lessons from the recent incidents have been learned and implemented. [passage omitted]

Al-Jumayyil Returns to Beirut From Arab Tour

NC261811 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Excerpt] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil returned to Beirut this evening after concluding on Arab tour that included visits to Egypt, the UAE, and Bahrain. [passage omitted]

PSP Criticizes Cairo Visit

NC260803 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] PSP deputy leader Muhsin Dallul has stated: Once again, Amin al-Jumayyil proves that his basic choice remains Camp David and Arab capitulation. In the meantime, Dallul adds, Al-Jumayyil tries to suggest to the Arab and Lebanese public that he is working for conciliation and the restoration of relations with Syria to resolve the country's problems. Dallul asserts: The disclosure of his secret visit to Cairo shows, beyond doubt, that Al-Jumayyil is betting on the continuation of the crisis so that he can stay in power.

Dallul affirms that Al-Jumayyil's persistence in practicing political deception will only aggravate the current crisis and further divide the Lebanese and the Lebanese and Arabs. In this context, he asserts that lies do not constitute politics or resolve crises. Dallul concludes: From the beginning Al-Jumayyil has proved an obstacle to any solution or settlement that would save the Lebanese.

Former Minister Marwan Hamadah, for his part, has asserted that Al-Jumayyil has again revealed the political school to which he belongs and the regional and international orbit in which he operates. Following the recent Francophone conference and the UN session, Hamadah says, Al-Jumayyil is now taking the crisis of the homeland, the regime, and the presidency to the capital of capitulation [Cairo], thus revealing his real intentions, even before the Arab summit.

Hamadah comments: Al-Jumayyil's talk about returning the Camp David issue to the Arab court reveals a suspect stance and raises more than one question about the legitimacy of the one who will represent Lebanon at the Amman summit and of a number of serious stands and choices he may make, even though they lie within the jurisdiction of the government as a whole and not within his own.

Former Minister Hamadah believes it is only natural for nationalist and Islamic leaderships to view this tour as a new link in the chain of the regime's game, which would, of course, reflect on the Lebanese and Arab stand on Al-Jumayyil's participation in the Amman summit. Hamadah believes it is no secret that the most important visit in the president's current tour is to Camp David-Cairo, with the visits to Bahrain and the UAE only an attempt to cover up and deceive. Hamadah asserts that these leaderships have the right to ask whether national solutions come through these shuttle visits or whether the road to Damascus and conciliation runs through Cairo, deviation, and challenge.

Amal Condemns Cairo Visit

NC261808 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] The Amal Movement issued a statement today saying that the president's visit to Cairo constitutes a new escalation and complements what he has said during his speeches at international forums.

The statement adds that the visit proves that he insists on pursuing the course of 17 May [the abrogated 17 May 1983 Lebanese-Israeli agreement]. His decision to visit Cairo again demonstrates that the president is pursuing this course in the foreign policy sphere. Furthermore, the statement says, the pesident's activities prove that he is fully responsible for the deterioration of Lebanon's political, economic, and social conditions. All this shows that the president has become the real obstacle preventing Lebanon's resurrection, unity, and independence.

The Amal Movement's statement continues: This situation makes it incumbent upon all honorable unionists to act to bring down the regime and to impose an accord which is based on justice and equality.

Syrians Arrest 20 PSP Members in West Beirut

NC261826 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Excerpt] The Syrian forces carried out raids in the Al-Musaytibah and Wata al-Musaytibah areas of West Beirut last night. During the operations, 20 PSP members, including 4 accused of complicity in the murder of 2 Syrian military men, 1 of them an officer, were arrested.

The Syrian forces have carried out raids in various areas over the last 48 hours, including Jall al-Bahr, which is under PSP influence. The socialists have been warned by the Syrian forces of the need to hand over the persons responsible for placing explosives in West Beirut. [passage omitted]

PSP Denies Arrest Reports

NC261833 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] A responsible source in the PSP today denied reports broadcast by certain suspect radios about arrests of PSP members in West Beirut. The source asserted that these reports are false and are part of the hostile campaign aimed at harming the relations among members of the national ranks on the one hand and between them and the fraternal Syrian Arab forces on the other.

Syria's Kan'an Arrives, Chairs Military Meeting

NC270647 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Staff Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian Military Intelligence in Lebanon, arrived in Beirut last night within the context of the ongoing efforts to reactivate the security plan in Beirut, to stabilize the security situation, and to curb those trying to undermine the security plan. Shortly after his arrival, Brig Gen Kan'an chaired a military meeting that was also attended by Brigadier General 'Ali Hammud, chief of the Syrian observer force, and senior Syrian officers. The discussions during the meeting revolved around the security situation.

Brig Gen Kan'an's visit to Beirut is expected to last several days. His sole task is to reactivate the security plan to prevent violators of the law from harming the security and safety of the citizens.

Kidnappers of Insurance Director Issue Statement

NC261042 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 24 Oct 87 p 5

[Excerpts] The fate of Badr al-Fahum, director of the Arab Insurance Company, remains unknown, while security authorities have doubled their efforts to investigate the matter in an attempt to find him. Al-Fahum was kidnapped by gunmen from his home in Verdun Thursday afternoon. [passage omitted]

Al-Nahar has received a statement from an organization calling itself the Oppressed People Forces [Quwa al-Sha'b al-Maqhur] which stated: "Despite numerous warnings to those responsible for the deteriorating economic situation, it seems that noboby listens. Therefore, from now on, we will take practical action to cut off the hands of vampires who suck the blood of this oppressed people.

"During interrogations, the arrested Badr al-Fahum clearly admitted to ties with a reactionist country, as well as to being one of the big shots causing the U.S. dollar to climb by smuggling hard currency abroad. After investigations are completed, he will be tried publicly on the above charges and on his blood ties with the corrupt King Husayn".

Hubayqah Accuses Ja'ja' of 'Divisive' Plan

NC241242 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Oct 87

[Text] The forces led by Elie Hubayqah [former Lebanese Forces Commander] have divulged serious information on acts of sabotage, explosions, and assassinations that Samir Ja'ja' [Lebanese Forces Commander] has been carrying out in order to impose his divisive plan.

At a news conference this morning at the Channel 7 television building, [Charles] Hubayqah said that Ja'ja', who has failed to impose his plan, has resorted to another tactic—namely, the protection of Christians—as a coverup for his plan in an attempt to gain their support in the eastern areas and force others, residing in other Lebanese areas, to emigrate.

In his news conference, Hubayqah disclosed that Karim Paqraduni is the head of the pro-Ja'ja' security service. The security service includes: Pierre Rizk, nicknamed Akram, Elie Daghir, Robert Dargham, Samir Abu Yunis, Tony Khuri, Bassam Karam, Francois Abu Tayi', Ilyas Nahlah, Fadi Ghusun, Munir Abu Samra, George Sam'an, Elie Mutran, Ghassan Ma'luf, and John Hubayqah. All these individuals are tasked with carrying out espionage and terrorism outside the eastern areas.

Accusation Termed 'Farce'

NC251814 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 25 Oct 87

[Text] A Lebanese Forces information official has made the following statement in response to Charles Hubayqah's news conference yesterday at the Channel 7 television building in West Beirut:

We would have preferred not to respond to the farce which Charles Hubayqah presented yesterday. However, we have found it necessary to draw attention to the artistic talents of Elie Hubayqah and his aides, particularly at preparing scenarios reminiscent of James Bond. Hubayqah and his group used to live with our comrades, whose names were divulged at the news conference. These people have known Hubayqah for a long time. They also know the people who read the statement and those who prepared it. Our comrades were reminded of the fact that Hubayqah and his group used to spend long hours before their television sets watching films about espionage, violence, and terrorism.

The way in which Hubayqah and his group prepared the said conference proves beyond a doubt their competence in movie and television picture directing.

The Lebanese Forces official added that the comments made by some journalists who attended the news conference yesterday are sufficient to express the competence of Hubayqah's people in preparing scenarios. The news conference proves that Hubayqah and his group lack any moral standards, particularly as Hubayqah exploits information he obtained in the past. The official added: This is all he has left with which to make false accusations. He even exploited his own brother, asking him to read the statement. Hubayqah took care not to get involved personally in this farce which deceived no one, particularly the journalists who were present.

AL-HAWADITH Interviews Foreign Minister

PM241411 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic
23 Oct 87 pp 24, 25

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by Raghidah Dirgham; date and place not given]

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' made it a condition that this interview with him should not be published in the traditional question-answer format followed in interviews with Arab officials. He had just concluded a visit to New York where he held bilateral talks with most of the foreign ministers of states concerned with the Middle East, including U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Because of the "importance" of these talks, as Minister al-Shar' said, the need to report to the leadership in Damascus before divulging anything about them to the press, and the fact that *Al-Hawadith* is a weekly magazine which cannot publish the interview the following day, Al-Shar' preferred that it be published in the American way; that is, by giving the answers without the direct questions and in the form of a report.

Al-Shar' explained the background of the Syrian conditions for participating in the forthcoming Arab summit conference scheduled to be held in Amman. He said: "During the Tunis meeting, we explained our position as follows: We have agreed to a summit, be it ordinary or extraordinary, and there was no disagreement as to its date and place. The disagreement was over the agenda. We maintained that it is wrong to discuss Arab security and the Arab situation in isolation from the main pan-Arab problem, which is the Arab-Israeli conflict."

Minister al-Shar' hastened to add: It is true that the situation seems to be calm on the surface, but the threat of Israeli occupation and Israeli "expansionism" is unlimited. These are the real dangers threatening all the Arabs geographically and historically, but we do not ignore the dangers of the Iraq-Iran war and we have not said that we are not prepared to discuss this issue. However, we put it in the right place in relation to the central issue, which is the Arab-Israeli conflict. If all the Arab states, and particularly Iraq, turned their attention to confronting Zionism and Israeli expansion as being the greater danger and preoccupation, then "everyone would have accepted the Syrian approach," the foreign minister said.

We asked about Syria's conditions for attending the Amman summit. Minister al-Shar' replied: "We have declared that we would not participate unless the Arab-Israeli conflict is placed at the top of the agenda....realizing that the Iraq-Iran war is a hot issue, we said: Let us put all hot Arab issues on the agenda for discussion."

Al-Shar' referred to the progress being made with regard to the acceptance of the Syrian approach and in particular to "King Fahd's statement that the Arab-Israeli conflict is a top Arab preoccupation."

Al-Shar' added: "I have personally felt willingness on the part of Arab foreign ministers to discuss the fundamental issues." He was referring to his New York meetings with a number of Arab ministers.

Talking about the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Iraq-Iran war, he said: "The money spent on this war is many times greater than the funds spent on confrontation with Israel." He added: "We refuse to be dragged into a battle against Iran, because such a battle would be devoid of principles."

On Syria's attitude toward Iran, the Gulf crisis, and the Iraq-Iran war, Al-Shar' stated: "We are against expansion of the war and against involving other states in it. We have made some efforts in this connection. We support freedom of navigation. As regards the Gulf crisis, we favor an Arab solution based on relations of good-neighborliness and understanding between the Arab states and Iran, not hostility and confrontation with Iran."

We asked the Syrian minister if the Iranian threats to Kuwait and attacks on its tankers meant that the Syrian endeavor to prevent an expansion of the war has failed. He replied: "We have not failed. We have managed to prevent an expansion of the war and had Iraq stopped its attacks on tankers, Iran would have been prepared to refrain from attacking Kuwaiti tankers." He added: "The possibility of the war expanding only appeared on the horizon with the appearance of foreign fleets in the Gulf. Before that, Syria had played an essential part in preventing the expansion of the war for years."

Asked about the Syrian claim that Syria does not accept occupation of a single foot of Arab territory and the fact that Iran at present occupies Iraqi territory, he said: "We cannot possibly accept occupation of even 1 foot of Iraqi territory. Iran cannot and does not claim that the territory it is occupying is Iranian territory, but Israel does say that the occupied territories are Israeli territories. Iran has not said that. In his UN General Assembly speech, Iranian President Khamene'i stated: We had to occupy territory because we were attacked."

We asked Minister al-Shar' why he did not mention an Iranian withdrawal from Iraqi territory in his UN General Assembly speech. He replied: "There was no need to mention it in the speech. Speeches do not necessarily say anything. Iraqi territory is a part of Arab territory. It was Iraq which started the war."

What is wrong with Iraq's present willingness to conclude a peaceful settlement with Iran? In the opinion of the Syrian foreign minister, "that should have been raised before."

Why should it not be raised now if the aim is to end the Iraq-Iran war?

Al-Shar' replied: "We believe that the side which started the war bears a grave historic responsibility. They will never be able to drag us into something we do not approve of. They should have sought Resolution 598 when they were inside Iranian territory, but at that time they even refused to condemn the war. Whatever happens, we make our calculations for the next 100 years. History is important to us in Syria, even 100 years from now."

What is Syria's "prescription" for ending the Iraq-Iran war if Damascus does not see Resolution 598 as the solution?

Minister al-Shar' replied: "A solution can only be achieved within an Arab, not an international, framework. This could be discussed at the Amman summit conference. If this war is to be regarded as the same as the Arab-Israeli conflict, then we disagree; but if they look at it as a big mistake and do not consider Iran to be an enemy of the Arabs, then it would be easier to achieve a solution within an Arab context. However, if the aim is to turn the Iraq-Iran conflict into an Arab-Persian conflict, we will never agree to that."

Does Syria agree to punishing the aggressor the Iranian way?

Al-Shar' answered: "If we want to end the war, then we must proceed from the premise that Iran is not an enemy and that it was subjected to aggression. If the aim is to make Iran an eternal enemy, then we do not agree at all."

We told the Syrian foreign minister that Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz had described Syrian-Iranian relations as an alliance and we asked his opinion of that description.

He replied: "They are relations of friendship and appreciation of the aims of the Iranian revolution. What alliance? What is the meaning of that word? Iran has its stands and we have ours."

We also told him that Minister 'Aziz had said that Syria broke the Arab consensus achieved last April. Minister al-Shar' replied: "There was no consensus even in April. Our position has not changed. In fact, it has not changed since the beginning of the war."

We noted: But the statement said that the Arab states had unanimously agreed that the war should end.

He replied: "But not in the way that Iraq and its supporters have begun to use." He added: "They raised the issue of breaking off relations with Iran but they did not get consensus. Then they tried the idea of freezing relations but again there was no consensus. They raised the question of confrontation. We said that is dangerous. Unanimity disappeared in April because Baghdad's aim was to drag the Arab states into the war and to make them fight, antagonize, and boycott Iran. That method would never end the war and Resolution 598, just like Resolution 242, will never stop the war."

We asked: What is your objection to Resolution 598?

He replied: "The objection is not to the principles of the resolution, which have been accepted by Iran. We believe that resolution will not end the war. Internationalizing the conflict means that each state will try to serve its own interests. So, how can it succeed? The Arabs run from capital to capital in vain because when the superpowers have to choose between Iran and Iraq, they choose Iran. We will not be part of positions which we know in advance to be futile. Iraq wants to drag the Arabs into a conflict with Iran, but we object to that. The method used by Iraq and some other Arab states will not end the war."

Referring to the UN secretary general's 16 September report following his return from Tehran and Baghdad, Foreign Minister al-Shar' said: "The secretary general's report treated Iraq and Iran equally without siding with either. Furthermore, when the senior members of the Security Council met, they decided that the cease-fire and formation of a commission to determine who started the war should take place simultaneously."

What about the significance of the absence of a clear link between a cease-fire and withdrawal from occupied territory?

He replied: "Think what you like."

What about the radical difference between the position of Syria on the one hand and the position of the Gulf states, especially Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, on the other? Is there such a difference?

The Syrian minister replied: "There are no differences with Kuwait or Saudi Arabia. They have not mentioned any differences to us. On the contrary, I believe they are deeply worried and are unhappy about what is going on."

In the talks between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Minister al-Shar' did the Americans ask Syria to return to Arab consensus on the Gulf?

"They did not ask us to return to Arab consensus," Al-Shar' answered, adding: "And we never agree to a dialogue with the United States unless it is on an equal footing. On the basis of equality we talk."

What were the points of agreement and disagreement between the Syrian and American views on the Gulf and the Iraq-Iran war?

Al-Shar' replied: "We submitted our views and they submitted theirs. The clear disagreement was on the subject of the Arab-Israeli conflict. They insist on the Israeli viewpoint that an international conference should be an umbrella for direct negotiations. We insist that it should be under UN supervision with the participation of all the parties to the conflict and the five permanent members of the Security Council, and we insist that it should be a real conference with a role to play and powers, not just an umbrella."

We asked about Lebanon and the contents of the verbal message conveyed to Al-Shar' by Shultz from Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil.

The Syrian minister said: "He expressed a viewpoint on Lebanon and stressed that only Syria can help this country. That is what the Americans told us. They would like Syria to play a part in the promotion of national accord and the revival of dialogue."

Will Syria respond to the American request urging it to strengthen security measures at Beirut airport?

Minister al-Shar' replied: "We act in accordance with the dictates of our duty to help Lebanon and when we are sure that any step or measure taken by Syria in Lebanon is in the interest of the Lebanese people. The Americans asked for more security measures at Beirut airport and we will study the matter."

We then told Minister al-Shar' that Lebanese President al-Jumayyil had said in an interview with *Al-Hawadith* that "there is a strategic agreement between Syria and Iran, according to a statement by the Iranian prime minister a few months ago, allowing Iranian Revolutionary Guards to enter Lebanon without the approval of the Lebanese Government." How true is that?

He replied: "We do not want to answer every word that crosses the imagination of some people. Lebanon is as precious to the Syrians as Syria itself. If we accept something for Syria we also accept it for Lebanon. If we allowed anyone to tamper with Syria's security, we would accept the same thing for Lebanon; but since we have not allowed any tampering with Syria's security, we will not allow any tampering with Lebanon's security."

We asked: Do you categorically deny the existence of such an agreement?

He replied: "My answer is clear and I will not add to it."

We said that Syria is interested in preventing internal Lebanese dialogue and we asked Al-Shar' to answer that charge.

He said: "Any dialogue that produces results and brings the conflicting parties together in a national accord will receive our unwavering support, but we should have in our hands a plan suitable for discussion, not a plan to impose a solution on the other side. Extremists on both sides should be excluded in the interest of national accord."

Does Syria consider President Amin al-Jumayyil to be one of these extremists?

Al-Shar' replied: "We hope he does not behave like an extremist."

At the end of the interview Minister al-Shar' noticed the headline of an interview he gave to *Al-Hawadith* last year, which was: We are committed to defend the security of the Gulf states. He said: "Incidentally, that is still our position."

Soviet Minister Arrives in Damascus 26 Oct

JN261408 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1250 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Damascus, 26 Oct (SANA)—At noon today, a Soviet delegation led by Nikolay Vasilyev, minister of land reclamation and water resources, arrived in Damascus on a 4-day official visit to Syria. He was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by Dr Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs; Eng 'Abd al-Rahman al-Madani, minister of irrigation; and the Soviet ambassador and embassy staff.

No-Confidence Motion Passed Against Minister

JN261806 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Excerpt] The People's Assembly met under Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi this evening. At the beginning of the session a no-confidence motion was passed against Riyad al-Haj Khalil, minister of supply and internal trade. The vote was 175 in favor of the no-confidence motion and 1 against with 19 members absent. The action was taken in accordance with Articles 157, 158, and 159 of the Assembly's internal rules. [passage omitted]

TISHRIN Views U.S. 'Policy of Gulfs'

PM270919 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 11 Oct 87 p 8

['Isam Dari article: "The Policy of Gulfs and Aggression"]

[Text] How the present resembles the past! Will history repeat itself?! Not long ago, in the sixties to be precise, the United States concocted a number of international crises through which it committed direct aggression against nations and intervened in the domestic affairs of independent sovereign countries in a frantic attempt to destroy revolutionary regimes which openly announced

their opposition to the policy of imposing U.S. will and reaffirmed their determination to defend the freedom of decisionmaking, territory, and policies and to defend independence.

In the sixties, U.S. forces attacked Cuba, in the Bay of Pigs, to bring down Fidel Castro's government. That attempt, which revealed U.S. aggression on an international level, failed.

Also in the sixties, the United States fabricated the Vietnam Tonkin Gulf crisis, which was the start of U.S. military involvement in Vietnam and the inevitable shocking defeat of U.S. forces and the U.S. withdrawal from the "Vietnamese quagmire" with loss of face. The people of Vietnam had composed sagas of heroism and were able to reaffirm the truth that it is nations which determine their destiny regardless of the oppressive power fighting them.

It is as if the Reagan administration has not learned from recent experiences, nor from the experience of bygone times. It is concocting a crisis in a new gulf; namely, the Arab Gulf. A new attempt has begun to break the spirit of nations, deprive them of freedom, and weaken their sovereignty.

Can one describe Washington's aggressive policy as a policy of gulfs, since for every new aggressive escalation U.S. Administrations have always chosen world gulfs—one need only point to U.S. aggression against Libya, which began with the Gulf of Sidra.

That is not the important thing. The important thing is what the Reagan administration is plotting not only against the Gulf region but against the entire Arab nation by escalating the policy of aggression in the Arab Gulf.

While the United States has launched its previous attacks over the past years under false banners and on various pretexts, such as protecting the regimes allied to it, in the Arab Gulf it has sought to perpetuate its military existence and set up permanent bases for U.S. forces in the region on the way to returning the region to the sphere of imperialism and getting hold of natural resources and an important strategic position.

A number of events and a series of top-level U.S. statements confirm these aggressive intentions, such as the following:

1—The issue of the bombing and sinking of the Iranian civilian ship in Gulf waters on the pretext that it was laying mines.

2—The aggression last Wednesday against three Iranian boats in Iranian territorial waters on the pretext that they had fired on a U.S. jet.

3—More dangerously, the Reagan administration is presently studying the possibility of "making use" of U.S. Coast Guard vessels and planes to reinforce the U.S. military presence in the Gulf.

The expression "guarding the coasts" necessarily means that this force is responsible for protecting U.S. coasts and U.S. "national security." If these forces were sent to a given place, it would mean that the Reagan administration considered the place to be a part of U.S. territory and security there a part of U.S. national security concerns!!

This is the U.S. logic with regard to events and it does not rely on any particular logic, as Washington arrogates for itself the right to commit aggression in places thousands of kilometers from U.S. borders and on pretexts and excuses which would not stand up in any objective and rational court.

What the Reagan administration has done in the Gulf is the natural consequence of false premises, both on the level of the Iraq-Iran war and on the level of U.S. intervention in the Gulf. Syria, in both cases, has alerted the Arab nation to the massive dangers which could result from them both, except that most of the brothers have only realized the truth too late. Some of them are even still ignorant of it to this day and believe that the U.S. presence will contribute to ending the conflict in the Gulf.

Even if Washington were able to end that conflict, it would replace the "Iranian danger"—if such a danger does exist, as some claim—with a greater U.S. danger, as though the Arabs, or some of them, should bless U.S. imperialism instead of facing and confronting it as the greatest danger which threatens pan-Arab security and betokens the return of the Gulf region to the sphere of direct Western imperialism.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Message to UN on Founding Anniversary

LD241019 Kabul Domestic Service inDari1600 GMT 23 Oct 87

["Text" of a message from Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar marking the 24 October founding anniversary of the United Nations; read by Deputy Prime Minister 'Abdulhamid Mohtat—recorded]

[Text] Your excellency, Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the United Nations:

Your excellency, on behalf of the Revolutionary Council, the people of the DRA, and myself, I want to express my very sincere congratulations on the occasion of the establishment of the United Nations. The date of 24 October constitutes a turning point in the history of mankind with the establishment of the United Nations. This resulted from the victory of the forces of peace and progress over fascism, militarism, and war-mongering forces. Since its formation, this organization has placed before itself the high and humane goal of freeing future generations from the disaster of war. It has been able to unite 159 countries in support of its Charter and its implementation.

The DRA, as a loyal and active member of this organization, has always strived and will continue to strive toward implementing the aim and content of the UN Charter. The DRA people and state continue to tune their voices with those whose destiny and desires are dependent on a peaceful future for mankind and who feel a deep responsibility vis-a-vis the world's communities within the family of the United Nations. We attach great value to its role in the struggle to prevent war, particularly nuclear war; to end the arms race and prevent its spread to outer space; to end racism, apartheid, colonialism and neocolonialism; to achieve disarmament; to create a new international economic and information system; and to make the collective international security system a common problem and the responsibility of all nations.

We believe that the proclamation of the national reconciliation policy in the country, aimed at achieving nationwide peace and ending war and bloodshed, will bring positive effects to the country and the region. This by itself expresses our honesty and goodwill toward achieving a peaceful solution to the situation in Afghanistan.

The DRA, as a free, independent and nonaligned country, and in honoring the 24 October UN founding anniversary, once again declares its full loyalty to the high ideals and aims of the UN Charter. It will not spare any efforts in ensuring its implementation.

[Signed] Dr Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council

Czechoslovak Energy Minister Continues Visit

Received by Najibullah

LD261435 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0503 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Kabul, October 25, *Bakhtar*—Dr. Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, met with Vlastimil Ehrenberger minister of fuel and energy of the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia and his entourage here on Sunday.

During the meeting which took place in a friendly atmosphere, matters relating to the future growth of economic and technical cooperations in the areas of energy, mines, transport and the share of Czechoslovakia's cooperation in the expansion of the private sector of the Afghan economy were discussed.

Dr. Najibullah has also received the Czechoslovak TV team for a TV interview in the same day.

The general secretary of the PDPA CC answered questions of the team pertaining to the results of the second nation-wide conference of the PDPA which was held from October 18-20 in Kabul as well as expansion of future relations between the DRA and Czechoslovakia.

Keshtmand on Ties With CSSR

LD220945 Prague Television Service inCzech1830 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] The fourth session of the mixed Czechoslovak-Afghan commission for economic, trade and scientific-technological cooperation continued in Kabul today. The two chairmen, Vlastimil Ehrenberger, CSSR minister of fuel and power, and Najibullah Masir, DRA minister of mines and industries, discussed in particular the possibilities for further cooperation in the development of Afghan coal, building materials, and power industries, and transportation. They also sought more effective ways to improve goods exchange, particularly the export of Afghan cotton to the CSSR. Czechoslovak trade organizations are also making efforts to establish direct trade links with DRA cooperatives, mixed and private sector organizations.

These issues were also discussed at a meeting between Comrade Ehrenberger and Afghan Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, who later granted an interview to our correspondent:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] In October it will be the 50th anniversary of the signing of the first friendship and cooperation treaty between Czechoslovakia and Afghanistan. How will this cooperation develop in the future?

[Keshtmand, in Dari fading into Czech translation] The signing of the CSSR-DRA Friendship and Cooperation Treaty was a great historical event. After the April Revolution, our relations developed and they continue to develop under current conditions, too, since our party and state have adopted the policy of national reconciliation. The CSSR and the CZCP support this policy and help to make it successful.

The arrival of the Czechoslovak delegation at the time when we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the CSSR-DRA treaty will help our future cooperation. We are grateful for the assistance provided to us by the Czechoslovak people and state. Our whole country appreciates this help. We believe that our relations will develop and deepen to the benefit of the two countries.

Today we discuss specific areas of joint economic cooperation. [end recording]

CSSR Minister Leaves 25 Oct

LD270856 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0424 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Kabul, October 26, *Bakhtar*—Vlastimil Ehrenberger, minister of fuels and energy of the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia left Kabul for his country on Sunday.

Ehrenberger, who is also head of the joint commission of Czechoslovakia-Afghanistan for economic, scientific and technical cooperations, had been here to participate at the 50th anniversary to the signing of the friendship and cooperation treaty and founding of diplomatic relations between Afghanistan and Czechoslovakia and the friendship week of Afghan-Czechoslovakia.

During his visit, Ehrenberger met party and state leaders and heads of social organizations and productive institutions of Afghanistan.

Keshtmand, Soviet Geology Minister Sign Accord

LD252346 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 25 Oct 87

[Text] Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, this afternoon took part at a signing ceremony between the DRA Ministry of Mines and Industry and the USSR Ministry of Geology on an agreement for technical and economic cooperation in geological prospecting.

The agreement was signed by Najibullah Masir, DRA minister of mines and industry, and Yevgeniy Aleksandrovich Koslovskiy, Soviet minister of geology. The ceremony was attended by Sayyed Mohammad Golabzoy, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and interior minister; some vice chairmen of the Council of Ministers; and a number of high-ranking DRA officials. It was attended on the Soviet side by P. Mozhayev, USSR Ambassador to the DRA; (Petrovich Jovarov), Soviet minister plenipotentiary in the DRA; (Aleksander Slikovich Petrov), economic counsellor of the Soviet Embassy in Afghanistan; some staff members of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul; and members of the visiting delegation.

According to another report, the visiting delegation this evening attended a dinner which was given in their honor by the DRA Council of Ministers.

Najibullah Meets Koslovskiy

LD262219 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, this morning at the headquarters of the Central Committee received Yevgeniy Kozlovskiy, the USSR minister of geology, and his accompanying delegation.

During this meeting, which was also attened by Pavel Petrovich Mozheyev, Soviet ambassador to the DRA, views were exchanged about Soviet cooperation in geology and prospecting with the DRA and subjects of mutual interest.

Nur Views Proposed Changes in PDPA Charter

LD242105 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Speech by Nur Ahmad Nur, member of the PDPA Politburo, to the 19 October session of the PDPA conference in Kabul—recorded in Pashto]

[Text] Comrades, esteemed delegates, dear friends: We all heard the report of Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, on the comprehensive and profound results of party activity over the last 5 years. In addition, immediate and future tasks on realizing national reconciliation were specified in that report [words indistinct] of study in connection with what measures will be possible for best implementing the envisaged tasks, are before us. In this connection, the draft of the party charter with amendments and changes, which has been (?prepared) in accordance with the Central Committee's resolutions, has been presented for your decision.

On 15 October, the session of the [words indistinct] concerning the party's charter was convened. Some 150 delegates took part in the work of the [word indistinct]. Among them were party and state personnel, experienced and young party members, secretaries of the party primary organizations, and representatives of the Armed

Forces. Twenty-seven people spoke at the meeting in a democratic and constructive atmosphere. Some 70 proposals and opinions were presented to the secretariat commission. The participants unanimously approved the new draft charter of the party. Emphasis was placed on the timely introduction of changes and amendments to the charter. The participants stated that in its present form the draft charter is in complete accord with the struggle for national reconciliation. This draft shows the party's high level of development.

As you know, the present party charter was approved at the first national party conference in February and March of 1982. This charter played a very important role in the building and activity of the party. In the past 5 years, the party has grown and has been consolidated organizationally. At present, there are more than 186,000 full and candidate members in the party ranks, three times more than that in 1982. All aspects and areas of interparty relations have ben developed.

There have been considerable quantitative and qualitative changes in the organization of the party, particularly at the mid and lower levels. Some 71 subdistrict party organizations have been formed, as well as 15 district organizations. The party now has a wide network of primary organizations, having increased from 1,767 in 1981-82 to 5,900 in 1987, more than threefold. The number of party organs and party organizations in Armed Forces units and companies has increased from 615 to 2,117, encompassing up to 60 percent of the party members.

These figures are not only indicative of the growth of the party and changes in its structure, but are also evidence of expansion and consolidation of contacts with the masses. The party has solved the most difficult and complex task: It has reconstructed its life and activity under difficult conditions.

In defending the gains of the revolution, the party led broad socioeconomic changes and was the initiator and executor of the policy of national reconciliation. The size, complexity, and unfamiliarity of the tasks which are being solved by the party in the new phase—the struggle for national reconciliation in Afghanistan—demands great efforts in all party tasks. The party has taken historical responsibility and, as a mobilizing, organizing, and unifying force of the popular movement, is acting for national reconciliation. The party knows well that its ability to correctly carry out this task will determine its role and place in society and its authority and credibility with the people. Therefore, the party is resolutely revising its work and adjusting its contents, forms, and method in accordance with the new conditions and the requirements of society.

In the past 5 years, party life has been considerably enriched as a result of the implementation of the charter, which was approved at the first national party conference. On the other hand, new tasks have came to the fore. Their solution demands a high revolutionary ability of the party and all its units. This was why changes in the party charter are needed.

The importance of the charter in the life and activity of a revolutionary party as one of its leading documents is known to all. The charter defines the organizational composition, methods of activity, and the norms and forms of party life. The changes in the party charter being introduced are inseparable from the new draft of the action program and in accordance with regulations and [words indistinct] and totally conforms with it.

What are the bases of the proposed amendments to the party charter? The aim is that the party charter precisely define the norms and behavior of the party in accordance with our democratic nature, role as pioneers in society, and revolutionary outlook. The aim of the changes to the party charter is to consolidate the party as a united and complete organization, to enhance the activities and initiatives of party members and all party organizations, particularly the primary organizations, and to comprehensively develop their responsibility for the overall cause.

First of all, it should be stated that in the preface of the charter the popular class character of the party has been clarified. The new draft states that on the basis of voluntary participation, the PDPA unites the vanguard and conscious part of the working class, peasants, intellectuals, the Armed Forces, artisans, nomads, and other strata of the people. This emphasizes party policy to broaden its social bases and to expand the party ranks among the conscious and vanguard sector of the toiling strata of the people, first of all the working class.

The party has occupied a high and responsible position in society. The PDPA is the tested and organized political vanguard of all Afghan people. The PDPA is based on the principle of scientific revolutionary theory, which it will develop and implement in a creative manner in accordance with the conditions of Afghanistan. The PDPA embodies and defends the hopes, aspirations, and fundamental demands of the Afghan people. Its fundamental slogan is: Peace, justice, and progress for our beloved people and homeland.

In the struggle for its aspirations and aims, the PDPA acts as a progressive national patriotic force. In accordance with the interests of the broad national forces, the party will put forward a plan for progressive democratic changes in all spheres of Afghan society and will persistently implement it. The party defends the gains of the April Revolution. The patriotic initiative of the PDPA is the policy of national reconciliation, which determines the ways to halt war and fratricide and to establish lasting peace in the land of the Afghans.

The party adjusts its activities on the basis of the complete observation of the norms of a vanguard revolutionary party and plays its role in society in accordance

with the [words indistinct] methods and means. The preface of the charter emphasizes that ideological and organizational unity, struggle, cohesiveness in the party ranks, conscious and strong discipline, and the participation of all party members are laws of life and the activities of the PDPA. This can be achieved through comprehensive and consistent adherence to the principles of democratic centralism, collectivism, and the development of criticism and self-criticism.

All party members are treated equally in the party rules. They do not have rights without responsibilities or responsibilities without rights. The party is responsible for each party member's living conditions and activities, and each party member is responsible to party's authority and interests and places them before his own. Any form of factionalism, regionalism or tribalism violates party membership. The activities of the party and each of its units are based on daily and unbreakable links with the masses. The historical experiences of our own party and that of other parties teach us that a party can only play a vanguard role when it constantly consolidates and strengthens its links with the vast majority of people and supports any type of expression of their social and political activities. The party needs firm links with people as much as one needs air to live. Above all, this manifests the party's objective need to continue to develop; it is the basic premise of its policy.

In order to end war and fratricide and to establish a lasting peace in the country, we need the active participation, not of thousands, or even tens of thousands, but of millions of people. Only a party that links its activities with the masses can convince these masses to greatly enhance their activities, direct these activities towards victory, and organize this great task. On the basis of this need, we should assess the activities of the party at all levels to mobilize and unite the masses to implement the national reconciliation policy.

Each of us knows that nearly all Afghans are waiting for peace, including those who are in the opposition camps today. The exception is a small group of extremists who long ago betrayed the interests of their people and sold them out. The party's proclaimed national reconciliation policy conforms with the most basic interests of the Afghan people.

But this is not enough. It is necessary for all people to work actively to end the meaningless war and fratricide and to establish a lasting peace in each corner of the country. Who will convince the masses of this fact, organize them, and lead their struggle for peace and advancement? Naturally, the PDPA. But the party does not impose its leading role. The masses will voluntarily accept this role when they became convinced by their own experiences that our party takes each action according to the interests of the people and homeland and does not spare any effort to pursue those interests.

The PDPA believes in the unbreakable unity of patriotism and internationalism and trains its members according to this spirit. The party struggles decisively for the rights of each individual to determine his destiny and to determine independently the path of his development. It pays constant attention to consolidating and deepening the traditional comprehensive cooperation with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. The party supports those people and forces who struggle against imperialism and for peace, national independence, and social advancement.

Therefore, it is proposed that a more realistic definition should be given in the introduction and in the important rules on the tasks, principles, and standards of intraparty life and party style so that it will better conform with the present level of the party's growth. Many of those comrades who participated in the discussion on party rules proposed that the party should continue to be defined as a modern type of party with a high degreee of political organization. These proposals have been studied seriously. It was considered logical to disregard such definitions because, in its present stage of development, the party is a kind of a revolutionary democratic party, both in structure, politics, and the style of its activities, as well as in its discussed aims.

On the other hand, the factors which have been mentioned reflect the vanguard characteristics of communism. This is an ideal that the PDPA should strive toward in the course of its growth. It is premature to enter the above-mentioned standards into the PDPA's rules now. All the chapters of the rules have been changed to accord with the principles and standards tested in the theoretical and practical structure of our party and of other parties. The rules have been reduced and clarified. Most of the adjustments, amendments, and additions occur in the first chapter of the party rules; that is, the chapter on party members and their duties. This chapter starts with the following special article:

Every citizen of Afghanistan who accepts the policy and rules of the party; who struggles actively for the country's peace, justice, and advancement; who takes part in one of the party's organizations; who carries out the party's decisions; who defends party unity; and who pays membership dues can be a member of the PDPA.

The Leninist principles of membership, which have successfully passed the test of time, have been kept in this definition. The observation of these principles without deviation ensures the consistent development and improvement of the quantitative composition of the party ranks and their completion with the forerunner representatives of workers, peasants, tradesmen, soldiers, intelligentsia, and other stratas of the people, who constitute the social bases of the national and democratic April Revolution.

During the past 5 years, the constant increase in accepting new party members has continued. Among those who have been accepted in the party, workers constitute 18.3 percent, peasants 26.5 percent, tradesmen 2-3 percent, and representatives of the intelligentsia 36.9 percent. Fifty-eight percent of party members are around 30 years old. In 1986-1987 alone more than 39,000 persons were attracted to the party.

The party's growth, taking women into account, is also strengthening. As Comrade Najib mentioned in his report, the duty to strengthen work among women, who have a particular interest in implementing national reconciliation, lies ahead. To make women more active and to attract them to sociopolitical life, the creation of women's party primary organizations has been envisaged in the draft rules.

The positive resolution of this issue is in full conformity with the tradition and customs of Afghanistan's people. Representatives of all the nationalities and tribes in the country have been accepted in the party. Despite this, the problem of qualitative development and the improvement of the composition of party ranks are still being resolved weekly. At present, the serious requirement is not a mechanical increase in party quantity, but the purposeful organization of acceptance in the party.

Of primary importance is the consideration of the need to strengthen the party and the party organization's effects on the national reconciliation process.

It is proposed that the formulation of the first article of the rules should require that a party member be one who struggles actively for peace, justice, and social advancement. Therefore, party demands concerning party members and those who want to qualify for party membership are becoming greater and more serious.

National reconciliation, the welfare of the homeland, and the prosperity of people are great goals. The thoughts, work, and life of each party member should serve them. The draft of the party rules, based on this fact, anticipates a number of new regulations, which will prepare the ground for the greater possibility of attracting those who are ready, from ideological and structural viewpoints, to tie their lives to the party in this difficult and demanding stage.

It is proposed that the process of accepting workers, peasants, Armed Forces personnel, and representatives of other social organizations be changed so that priority is given to those who prove themselves in the work for reconciliation and in the struggle against its enemies. A large number of proposals have been presented in party sessions and conferences in connection with the cancellation of the trial period. These proposals are reasonable. The condition according to which our party acts is to give equal responsibility from the very first day to those who tie their lives to the party. Therefore, the need for the trial period, a special time to make them prepare themselves for party membership, loses its point. As a result of this, it is necessary to give equal rights and duties from the first day to those who join the party. Similarly, the form of party punishment, degrading from full membership to candidate membership, will naturally be abolished. In case a party member commits a crime that does not suit his rank, he should be expelled directly from party ranks.

In addition, the cancellation of the trial period allows the party committees to remove the shortcomings that exist in the present arrangement and distribution of party cards and to create a better order.

The new approach concerning party acceptance does not make the work of party committees and organization easy; it actually makes it more complicated with regard to the preparation of reserves to complete the party ranks and to develop the ideology and training of new party members. It is necessary to increase work in two directions as follows:

First, it is necessary to enhance the role and importance of the interested groups as reserves for the completion of party ranks. The most experienced party members should be put in charge. It is necessary to make greater use of the rights of interested groups to make a collective decision on the readiness of this or that comrade for acceptance in the party.

Second, it is necessary for the role of the DYOA, as an assistant and most close [word indistinct] of the party, to be enhanced. This approach is sufficiently reflected in a number of articles, especially in Chapter 7 of the party charter [words indistinct].

Comrade Najib, PDPA Central Committee general secretary, in his speech to this conference, pointed out that revolution and youth, because of their nature and spirit, express relevant meanings.

Dear comrades: All those who have studied history know that in all past revolutions and in the revolutionary reconstruction of society, youths have always been in the forefront of the fight. The veterans of our beloved party, including myself, believe our cause, to which we have devoted our lives, will be transferred to the confident hand of youth, and we are proud of this. [applause]

Third, permanent schools for young party members are well organized and will prepare to take over the role of this trial period.

However, the major test for those who will be accepted to the party today, as justly pointed out by the participants in the discussion, is their individual part in implementing the national reconciliation policy, consolidating unity and discipline among the ranks, and showing courage and heroism in the struggle for the homeland.

Because the trial period issue is based on principle, I propose that a vote be taken concerning its cancellation.

In this respect, I ask the session chairman to take the vote of the esteemed delegates.

[Chairman] Those who will vote yes to the proposal presented concerning the cancellation of the trial period, please raise your credentials. Thank you. Those opposed. Abstentions.

The proposal presented has been approved. [applause]

I ask Comrade Nur to continue his speech.

[Nur] Thank you, dear comrade.

In the draft charter the broadening and [word indistinct] of the duty of party members and a number of other demands (?have been explained). In Article 6 the duties of party members have been envisaged. Articles 1, 2, 10, 11, 14, and 16 have been newly formulated, and all other articles have been made specific and clear.

In general, all the responsibilities of party members have been determined with regard to strengthening the party's authority among the people. Among the demands laid down before each party member—as a political fighter—are the struggle to implement the national reconciliation policy, the country's socioeconomic development, prosperity, people's freedom, and the construction of a just society in Afghanistan. These are the main duties. Demands concerning party members' active participation in the country's sociopolitical life are being enriched.

Each party member is duty bound to set an example by applying the rights and duties embodied in the country's constitution, to work in one of the National Front organizations, and to assist in the consolidation and enhancement of its role in society's affairs.

Moreover, the issue of party members assisting in the enhancement of criticism enjoys serious importance. A party member must properly perceive criticism, too, and react correctly to it. He should critically assess his actions and activities and resolutely struggle against every feature of noncriticism and the prevention of criticism.

A party member's political training must above all have a specific objective. With the systematic broadening of political vision and the increased level of theoretical knowledge, each party member is duty bound to learn the scientific revolutionary theory and to resolutely struggle against every subversive ideology, false rumor, and accusation directed at the PDPA and national sovereignty. Every party member must build in himself the spirit of earnest cooperation toward members of other parties and political organizations.

The moral requirements for party members have been made more serious. These requirements begin at the point where every party member has the duty to be a seemly example of life in accordance with the best traditions and worthy customs of the people. Every party member is duty bound to be a pioneer, not only in word but also in action. He has to pay attention to his personal authority in society because he represents the authority of the whole party.

In view of the new demands, each party member is not only duty bound to respect and observe the people's beliefs, but also to assist in performing them. By this, the demands of a party member and the application of beliefs and religious traditions are being completed. Thus, the articles of the charter cover the existing norms of respect and observance of the sacred religion of Islam and, therefore, expose and denounce the enemies' fabrications in this regard.

It is very important for the party to demand from its members that they enhance their activities and their vanguard role. These demands are being consolidated by specific measures for the renewal of demands for the observation of party charter norms.

In the charter draft, more attention is being paid to the realization of the principle of democratic centralization in the party's structure and activities in correct proportion to democracy and centralization.

The party's interests, as a single system of party organizations, displays the superiority of centralization, which only acts in conformity with inner party democracy.

The proposed amendments in the charter's articles, in relation to party organs at all levels, are directed toward enhancing the role and level of responsibility in implementing the national reconciliation policy, consolidating party relations with the masses, and making progress in coalition administration at the local level.

These amendments envisage inner-party democracy, collectivism at work, and the evolution of the party committees' activities.

Important amendments and changes are being proposed in Chapter 5 on primary party organizations. In consideration of the party members' proposals and criticisms, the provisions of this chapter on the duties, responsibilities, and rights of the primary party organizations, have been noticeably broadened and amended.

Although the primary party organizations form the foundation of the PDPA, they are duty bound to assist party contacts with masses of the people. The role of primary party organizations is being enhanced, in particular with regard to bringing up party members, above all young

party members, and controlling their work in implementing the duties in the charter, decisions of the party, in the daily activities among the people, and their mobilization around the party.

Such attention to the primary party organizations will strengthen most of the party levels through which party policy is directly implemented, party authority secured, and the people's trust attained.

An increase in the number of party organizations in the villages and their quality and quantity of composition is the first duty of the national reconciliation policy.

The draft amendments and changes in the PDPA Charter are being enriched with new material and conclusions, which better organize the PDPA's relations with social organizations.

It is proposed that a new chapter in the charter, entitled "The Party and the National Front," be added. This chapter should explain the character of the party's relations with the National Front and the party's preparation for unity with all leftist democratic national patriotic forces; religious, liberal, democratic, and other parties; and sociopolitical organizations in the framework of the National Front for restoring peace, achieving development, and improving the people's life.

Therefore, these proposed specific amendments and changes in the PDPA Charter stem from the organizational principles and activities of the revolutionary parties. These amendments and changes are directed to enrich a party members' life with new thoughts in conformity with today's requirements.

These amendments and changes will direct subsequent party consolidation on the basis of genuine principles of democratic centralization, enhancing a party member's authority, and maintaining the party's major role in Afghan society.

Thank you for your attention. [applause]

Keshtmand Details Provincial Election Results

LD261437 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0512 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Kabul, October 25, *Bakhtar*—Elections in the local organs of state power and administration took place since the beginning of elections in 29 rpt 29 provinces, in Kabul City, in Khost grand district, in 130 rpt 130 counties, 59 rpt 59 sub-counties, 63 rpt 63 cities, 44 rpt 44 precincts and in over 6,300 rpt 6,300 villages.

This was said by Sultan 'Ali Kheshtmand, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA in a periodical session of the high commission for the preparation and holding of elections in the country.

In these elections, over 86 rpt 86 percent eligible persons have elected over 24 rpt 24 thousand representatives in a free and democratic atmosphere. Elections were held in 13 rpt 13 administration units, 31 rpt 31 counties, 5 rpt 5 sub-counties, 1 city, 4 districts and in 600 rpt 600 villages in honour of the holding of the nation-wide party conference, S.A. Keshtmand added.

The former opposition forces formed 17.5 rpt 17.5 percent of the people's representatives. Admission of these forces during the current year has considerably increased in the composition of people's representatives. For instance, self-elections took place in 14 rpt 14 administration units and 598 rpt 598 villages.

Five inactive administrative units have come under the control of state sovereignty. In total, coalition executive committees [no figure as received] the chairman of the Council of Ministers pointed out, have been set up in 22 rpt 22 counties and sub-counties. One thousand six hundred forty-nine persons belonging to former opposition groups have become members in the councils of people's deputies.

Now it is high time to delegate organisational tasks of elections to the organs of state power by using past's experience in this regard, said S.A. Keshtmand.

We have, S.A. Keshtmand continued to say, accumulated concrete experiences in different stages of national reconciliation. Our experience in this regard ranges from its primary forms such as protocol on cease-fire and neutrality to holding independent elections by the inhabitants in small villages who are not under the state control, the joint convening of elections with former opposition groups, with returnees and the delegation of leading positions to them.

Letters are continuously sent by localities to the Council of Ministers in which the people there call on the capital to solve their problems. However, without establishing an autonomous administration in localities, one can not solve the problems of the provinces in the capital. It does not mean that reference should not be made to the capital or every action would be taken without consultation with the central administration. It actually means that the local organs should enjoy a relative autonomy in their performances.

Mujahidin Kill Herat Paramilitary Commander

LD252309 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 25 Oct 87

[Text] According to an IRNA report, the commander of the paramilitary forces of the Kabul Regime in Herat Province was given a revolutionary execution by Afghan Muslim revolutionaries. He was identified as Arbab Sayyed and was killed 4 days ago. He was the main

designer of the security belt around the city of Herat. According to our reports, three of his accomplices were also killed in the course of the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries' attack.

Another report from Herat Province indicates that the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries attacked the center of the espionage organization and Herat's 17th Division 3 days ago, killing four KHAD [State Intelligence Service] members and a number of the regime's military personnel.

Bangladesh

Further on Opposition Arrests, Demonstrations

Arrests To Thwart 'Agitation'

BK261240 Hong Kong AFP in English 1230 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 26 (AFP)—Several hundred opposition political leaders and activists have been detained by police in Bangladesh in a move by the authorities to thwart plans for increased anti-government agitation, official and party sources said Monday.

At least 280 opposition political leaders and workers had been detained by the security forces in 24 hours, the sources said.

Home Secretary Kamaluddin Chowdhury told *Agence France-Presse* several arrests were made in Dhaka and other parts of the country.

"But we don't have the exact number and other details on the arrests," he said, indicating the information might be available later.

In Dhaka, nearly 60 people were taken into custody for political reasons, opposition sources said, adding that the homes of their senior leaders were raided by police overnight Sunday.

In the southeastern port of Chittagong, police confirmed that at least 20 people were held.

Reports from other towns where anti-government demonstrations were planned for Sunday and Monday as a prelude to a November 10 "siege" of the capital by the major opposition groups said more than 200 opposition activists were held.

Those detained included former home minister and senior Awami League leader Abdul Mannan and retired colonel and former petroleum Minister Akbar Hussain of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), opposition sources said.

At least four members of parliament were also detained, they added.

The arrests were designed to foil planned opposition action intended to force the resignation of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and his government, the sources said.

The government Saturday described the planned November 10 demonstration as unlawful and said stern action would be taken against those campaigning or publicising such agitation.

Opposition group leaders including Sheikh Hasina Wajed and Begum Khaleda Zia have rejected the government statement as unconstitutional and provocative and reiterated their plan to hold the protest.

Demonstrations Against Arrests

BK270506 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] In Bangladesh, at least 1 person was killed and 15 injured when police opened fire to disperse protestors near government offices in Dhaka yesterday. According to a government official, the crowds went on a rampage throwing stones and attacking policemen. Similar protests were also reported from some other towns. The demonstrators were protesting against the arrest of about 300 opposition political activists in midnight raids on Sunday [25 October].

Opposition Demonstrations Continue

BK270954 Hong Kong AFP in English 0935 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 27 (AFP)—Opposition groups staged nationwide demonstrations Tuesday on the second day of an anti-government campaign which has left four people dead and more than 200 injured, sources said.

Nearly 1,000 people have been arrested since the anti-government agitation began Monday, police sources said Tuesday.

Meanwhile, opposition sources said that moves were underway to set the first meeting between the country's two top opposition leaders, Sheikh Hasina Wajed and Begum Khaleda Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

The sources said Sheikh Hasina had invited Begum Zia to hold talks on the latest political developments and possible joint anti-government action.

The two women were expected to meet soon, they said.

Opposition sources and press reports said that two former ministers and four members of parliament were among the nearly 1,000 people arrested since Monday.

Officials here confirmed Tuesday that some people had been taken into pre-emptive custody but declined to release any figures.

Opposition sources said those arrested included leaders and MP's of the eight-party opposition alliance of Sheikh Hasina, the seven-party combine headed by Begum Zia and the five-party group of Nirmal Sen.

Three people were killed Monday when police opened fire on crowds of opposition supporters in the sub-district towns of Charghat, Barura and Langolkot, police and press reports said.

One person died when an opposition procession was fired upon, allegedly by government supporters, in the southeastern town of Chondraghona, near the port city of Chittagong, the reports said.

More than 225 people were injured in clashes Monday between government and opposition supporters in several sub-district towns, they added.

The opposition campaign aimed at forcing the ouster of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad is scheduled to culminate with protests in the capital Dhaka on November 10 which the government has already declared unlawful.

The opposition had rejected the government warning and said it will go ahead with its plans.

India

400 Held for Protesting Army 'Anti-Tamil Role'

BK270758 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] About 400 DMK volunteers, including a member of Parliament, were arrested in Madras today for attempting to picket near several central government establishments. They were protesting against what they called the peace-keeping force's anti-Tamil role in Jaffna. The picketing was near the general post office, the Reserve Bank of India, the Provident Fund office, the accountant general's office, the postmaster general's office, the southern railway headquarters, and a post office at (Tinagar).

U.S. Missiles to Pakistan 'Serious Threat'

BK270333 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] The U.S. is to supply Pakistan 200 M9-L air-to-air Sidewinder missiles for its F-16 fleet and about 8 submarine-launched sea-to-surface Harpoon missiles. *United News of India*, quoting high official sources in Washington, says that the transaction is to be fiscally covered under the military and economic package which expired in September this year, since the next aid package to Pakistan has been stalled by the Congress till January next. The Pakistan Air Force will get a major boost from the U.S. missiles sale and will compensate for the setback caused due to stalling of the new aid package. The sources said that Pakistan military armada had to be supplemented in order to avoid a break in the continuance of U.S. assistance.

The missiles will be a shot in the arm for Pakistan Air Force and Navy. The M9-L is a deadly air-to-air missile, while the Harpoon submarine-launched missiles are highly lethal and accurate weapons. The Sidewinder will be used on the existing squadrons of F-16 jet fighters. The missile, once fired, automatically maneuvers itself and can be released by the pilot up to 110 degrees on either side of its flight path. Experts are of the view that such a large number of Sidewinders are not the legitimate requirement of Pakistan for use against the Afghan Air Force. Some of the experts argue that the missiles will pose a serious threat to the Indian Air Force.

CPI Criticizes Cooperation Pact With U.S.

BK241630 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Oct 87

[Text] The Communist Party of India has criticized the Indo-U.S. agreement on cooperation in defense, technology, training of administrative personnel, and other key sectors. In a press release in New Delhi today, the party general secretary, Mr C. Rajeshwar Rao, said the prime minister's statement that the President, Mr Reagan, has changed his attitude toward Pakistan and he recognizes India as a major power in South Asia is, what he called, wishful thinking.

Assails Gandhi Policies

BK251251 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 17 Oct 87 p 12

[Text] Lucknow, Oct. 16—CPI general secretary, Rajeshwar Rao, today assailed Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi for reversing his foreign policy and softening his attitude towards US imperialism. The CPI general secretary told newsmen later that the progressive foreign policy of the prime minister appears to be changing and resulting in increase in unemployment, poverty, price rise and also endangering the country's self-reliance. Mr Rao said the genetic serum agreement with the United States, the training of Indian administrative personnel by US experts henceforth were fraught with grave consequences to the nation's security.

He said the CPI and other left parties have launched a country-wide movement for mobilising people and uniting left and secular democratic parties for ousting the Rajiv Gandhi government. He told newsmen that a demonstration was being organised in Delhi before Parliament on Dec. 9 next against widespread communalism and the Rajiv Gandhi government.

Replying to question about the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan, Mr Rao said it was definitely beneficial for India. Asked to comment on opposition unity, the

CPI general secretary said the CPI was opposed to any unity without a minimum base programme. He further said communal parties should have no involvement in this unity at all.

Mr Rao said his party had differences with other opposition groups on the point that they never criticise the faulty economic policy of the country. He said on the issue of corruption alone, the country could not be run. He said Mr Vishwanth Pratap Singh, who today speaks against the economic policy of the country was in fact involved in its formulation. He said his party supported V.P. Singh only on the issue of corruption. Otherwise also he was not speaking out openly and clearly and has adopted a dull policy on the question of communal forces. Similarly none of the opposition groups was showing concern over the exploitation and plight of agriculture labourers. Only CPI appears to be fighting for their cause.

TNV Collaborators Arrested; Strike Called

BK260929 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] In Tripura, 11 TNV [Tripura National Volunteers] collaborators have been arrested in connection with Saturday's killing of six non-tribals at Kunjamura village in west district. According to PTI, jawans [soldiers] of the Assam Rifles detained three persons at (Bindatila) at Kunjamura while on a combing operation.

A 12-hour Tripura bundh [strike] called by the CPI-M to protest against the killing began at 0600 this morning. A PTI report from Agartala says shops and other business establishments are closed. Vehicles are off the road. Attendance in central and state government offices is nil. The Indian airlines, however, operated their scheduled flights to and from Calcutta.

Threats to Gandhi's Political Survival Analyzed

BK251341 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 17 Oct 87 p 13

[P. Tharyan article: "Is PM Over the Hump?"]

[Text] Only a few months ago, even dispassionate observers of the political scene had serious misgivings about Mr Rajiv Gandhi's survival in office. It looked as if he would be uprooted by the storm generated by Bofors and other defence scandals. Many had predicted a sea-change in national politics. There had been speculation about his likely successor—Mr V.P. Singh, Mr Ramakrishna Hedge, Mr Chandrashekhar—the list was lengthening day by day. But the picture has changed. Not only does the storm seem to be subsiding but the political threat to the prime minister is receding. Not that his problems have vanished completely or he faces no challenge from any quarter. But he seems to be over the hump.

As things stand now, a serious threat to Mr Rajiv Gandhi can develop only if it is proved that he or his family is involved in the Bofors deal. The visit of two Swedish gentlemen representing Bofors to New Delhi threw little light on the details of the winding up charges and kickbacks except that 60 crore rupees or so had changed hands before the deal was struck. Though the names of the firms which were given the money were revealed to the government and a joint parliamentary committee is inquiring into the deal, there has been no confirmation whether any Indian got a share of it and if so, who. Nor has any specific proof been produced in support of the charge of corruption levelled against the prime minister. In these circumstances, particularly in the context of the prime minister's categorical statement in Parliament that neither he nor his family was involved in the Bofors episode, the benefit of doubt might go in his favour.

The moment the Swedish Radio came out with the Bofors story, the opposition parties and the congressmen who had parted company with the prime minister rightly thought that they had a God-send opportunity to administer a severe blow to the prime minister. In fact, they did administer the blow to him but it did not hurt him the way they had intended. If Mr Ram Jethmalani, who posed more than a hundred questions to embarrass the prime minister, was sure of his facts, why did he not come out with them? It is one thing to point an accusing finger or to cast aspersions. It is another thing to prove the charges. Mudslinging is common in politics and the mud often sticks. But how long? Not that the prime minister's image has not suffered during Bofors and other controversies. So long as it is not established that he is guilty he is bound to be politically safe.

A major factor that has helped Mr Rajiv Gandhi weather the crisis is the party's firm support of him. When Mr V.P. Singh raised the banner of revolt, it was feared that many Congress-I MPs might shift their loyalty from Mr Rajiv Gandhi to him. But except for a few leaders like Mr Arun Nehru and Mr Arif Mohammed Khan the rest of the party MPs stood solidly by Mr Rajiv Gandhi, whatever might be the reason. No MP, particularly of the Congress variety, would like to take risks unless he or she is sure of being with the winner. When Mrs Indira Gandhi split the Congress following her fight with the syndicate, the majority of the Congress MPs cast in their lot with her because they were sure that she would emerge victorious. But that is not the case with Mr V.P. Singh who is by no means a political wizard.

To most congressmen, the question of changing the leadership does not arise. Whatever his failings, Mr Rajiv Gandhi remains a sure bet for the party. In their private confabulations congressmen must have explored the prospects of discovering a new leader but having found none, they seem to have come to the conclusion that it is better to put up with one who has a greater popular appeal than other leaders in the party. Again, congressmen must be annoyed with Mr V.P. Singh's tactics and the manner in which individuals like Mr

Arun Nehru and Mr V.C. Shukla are trying to gain a martyr's halo which they do not deserve. Mr Arun Nehru, who was catapulted to politics from his air-conditioned office in a paint manufacturing firm, is by no means a paragon of virtue. Nor can Mr Shukla, whose emergencys excesses are still not forgotten, be a rallying point for those who fight for integrity, honesty and decency in public life. Mr Arif Mohammed Khan has proved his guts but to what extent he can influence national politics remains to be seen.

Another question that no congressman can afford to overlook is the state of the party. Congressmen today are different from their predecessors. There was a time when every major issue in the party was discussed and thrashed out from the mandal [village-level organization] to the AICC [All-India-Congress Committee] level. There was inner party democracy. There was no attempt to impose decisions on the lower levels from the top. But the situation has changed mainly because organisational elections have not been held for more than two decades. Even the AICC session is being put off on some pretext or the other. The views of the rank and file hardly matter to the decision makers at the top. In other words, who will defy Mr Rajiv Gandhi? Who will dare to question him even if he is wrong? This is the state of affairs in the party and that helps him a lot.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi has received help from an unexpected quarter too. Looking at the warring left and right parties, one cannot but come to the conclusion that opposition unity is bound to remain a dream. What has helped Mr Rajiv Gandhi most is the discord within the opposition, irrespective of whether the apple of discord has been provided by the communists or the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]. The hope that the opposition would unitedly wage a battle against the Congress-I has been belied. There is no need to blame any party or leader for this denouement.After all, when politics is based on ideology how can the right and the left meet?

The prime minister would have found himself highly vulnerable had the opposition parties rallied round the same banner or reached a close understanding among themselves on how the Congress-I should be fought. The Indian electorate would have been delighted to hail opposition unity, hoping that a national alternative to the Congress-I was in the offing. But that chance appears to have been squandered away and the gainer is Mr Rajiv Gandhi as well as his party. The people are not that foolish to entrust the fortunes of the country with a conglomeration of parties, particularly when Janata fiasco is still green in their memory.

To the communists, fighting communalism and separatist forces is more important than fighting the Congress-I and corruption. Similarly, the BJP looks upon the communists as a greater enemy than the Congress-I. At least these two political forces are bound to be hostile to each other and the Congress-I has no reason why it should not exploit their hostility. If the BJP wants Mr Rajiv Gandhi to resign, the communists might insist that he is indispensable. If the communists turn against him, the BJP might come to his rescue. After all, the RSS [Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh—fundamentalist Hindu organization] chief's declaration that there is no national alternative to the Conqress-I is bound to influence the BJP's decision-making process.

Now that the threat from the opposition has shrunk, Mr Rajiv Gandhi will be mainly judged by how he measures up to the country's problems which include Punjab, the effect of drought, inflation and undoubtedly Sri Lanka. As regards Punjab, the government has taken the right stand that the fight against terrorism should continue. It is a welcome sign that many Sikhs who have been sitting on the fence have begun to get disillusioned with the terrorists. An erstwhile sympathiser of the militants, Prof. Darshan Singh, has now realised that they can only harm the community. Once terrorism is curbed, steps will be taken not only to bring peace and harmony in the state but also to redress the legitimate grievances of the people. The sooner these goals are achieved, the better for the country as well as for the Rajiv Gandhi government.

Again, it is a question of time in Sri Lanka. New Delhi's Sri Lanka policy has come in for criticism from diverse sources but what else could it have adopted other than its present course of action? Nobody could have foreseen that the LTTE would try to sabotage the Indo-Sri Lankan accord. There is still no certainty how the Sinhala hawks would act in the coming months. Nevertheless, it would be a happy denouement if autonomy for the Tamils becomes a reality and the territorial integrity of Sri Lanka remain intact. In which case, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's Sri Lanka policy will be vindicated.

Leaders tend to become wiser by experience. It is time Mr Rajiv Gandhi subjected himself to self-introspection and found out where he went wrong. Such an exercise is likely to help him avert mistakes in future. It can be no happy thought for him that his party lost all the Assembly elections which it fought ever since he assumed leadership. The question whether Haryana will be repeated in the next general election must be causing concern to him as well as the party. How the people will vote now or two years hence is unpredictable. But if the Congress-I can keep up the belief that it alone can provide a stable government to the country, the electorate might help the party to return to power at the centre even if the opposition fares well in the state elections. A divided, amorphous and rudderless opposition is undoubtedly a bonanza for Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

Iran

Reagan Puts 'Severe Restrictions' on Imports

LD271150 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] U.S. President Reagan yesterday declared: On account of Iran's attacks on U.S. interests in the Persian Gulf, all imports into the United States from Iran will be

prohibited and more severe restrictions on U.S. exports to Iran imposed. According to a *Reuter* report, Reagan, in a written statement, said: We have taken these measures after repeated but unsuccessful efforts to reduce tension with Iran. Reagan also stated that the ban on imports of goods from Iran would be implemented as soon as possible and that within 10 days a more severe restriction would be imposed on U.S. exports to Iran.

Delhi Cites Majlis Speaker on UN Naval Force

BK261610 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] The speaker of Iranian parliament, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, says his country will accept the presence of a UN naval force in the Gulf if it consists of nonaligned countries and not the superpowers. In an interview with All India Radio special correspondent Jag Mohan Mathur, he said Tehran is also ready to accept joint patrolling by Iran and coastal Arab countries.

As for the proposal for the simultaneous setting up of a commission to identify the aggressor, Mr Hashemi-Rafsajani said his country will accept the cease-fire proposal only after identification of the aggressor. He said once the commission is set up, it will have an impact on the war front provided the commission declares its decision within a week or two.

Mohtashemi on Readiness for 'Full-Fledged War'

LD261526 Tehran IRNA in English 1512 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct 26, IRNA—Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali-Akbar Mohtashemi today called on people in each and every Iranian city and village to be prepared for a full-fledged war against the U.S. Describing the U.S. as 'weak and coward,' the interior minister stressed that any slight blow on the U.S. would create serious politico-security problems for it. Addressing a meeting of deputy governors-general from throughout the country here, Mohtashemi noted that the U.S., which is fast sinking in the Persian Gulf, is scared of losing its forces in the Persian Gulf.

Referring to recent statements made by U.S. Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger that an arms embargo on Iran could hamper its abilities to continue the war, Mohtashemi said that such statements reflect Washington's acute desperation. "Since we are facing a savage enemy, we should mobilize all our resources and manpower to deal effective blows on it," concluded the interior minister.

IRGC Official on Stingers, U.S. Arms Embargo

NC262030 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1545 GMT 24 Oct 87

[From the "Revolution Guards" program: Address by unidentified Islamic Revolution Guards Corps commander to a gathering in Mashhad; date not given—recorded]

[Text] The fact that the United States has come to the region, taken Europe's hands into its own, and claims to have joined hands with the Soviet Union as well is, incidentally, a positive proclamation of our victory! Obviously, if Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq had been able to stem the progress of our nation, of our Islam, the Americans would never have come to the Persian Gulf.

The fact that we are standing face to face with the United States today means that we have crossed all obstacles, conquered all trenches, surmounted most of the U.S. barricades in the region, traversed all other impediments, and reached the very heart of the conspiracy to the focal point of the plot. We should celebrate our nation's confrontation with the United States. We should celebrate a major victory because the U.S. arrival in the region is a declaration of our nation's massive victory.

Now the whole world's eyes are riveted on the arena of our encounters. On the one hand is our nation, which has assumed control of its affairs for barely 10 years now. On the other hand are the United States and Europe, which have had 200 years of sovereignty. Science, technology, and the world economies are at their disposal. And yet we are fighting them after such a short span of independence! Today, in the Persian Gulf, your combatants have robbed slumber from the eyes of the enemy.

Today the Americans are trying to impose an arms embargo on our country. Just when the Americans had paid a visit to the Soviets, British, and Europeans and invited them to join in clamping an arms embargo on Iran, a sudden cry was heard in the Persian Gulf, announcing that a Stinger was found there! The Americans could not furnish Stingers to Jordan, as the U.S. Congress had withheld its approval. Congressional concern centered on the possibility that the missiles would be turned against Israel if the Stingers were to be sent to Jordan and fall in the hands of Jordanian Muslims in the event King Husayn were to be toppled. Therefore, Congress said no to sending Stingers to Jordan.

The Jordanians have been trying to get Stingers from the United States for a long time. They have been groveling for them but have not been able to acquire them. Saudi Arabia has been attempting to get Stingers for ages, but to no avail. However, it was suddenly announced in the Persian Gulf that Iranians had gained access to Stingers. This is while the United States is talking of imposing an arms embargo on us. Is this course of events not most demeaning for the United States on an international level?

All these issues have arisen because we have inculcated spiritual strength. We have retrieved our long-lost valor and have resolved to follow in the footsteps of Hoseyn forever. This determination has been imbued in us by the imam of the nation. He has infused this spiritual strength in our bodies. This strength is based on our real strength that we have to tap. If, God willing, we can tap

the immense potential inherent in our people and in our nature, and which lies in our deep-rooted unity, cohesion, coordination; if we can organize all our resources and our people, which will be on the basis of what Islam, the imam, and 'Ashura have given to us, then we will certainly be able to rediscover our prestige, our personality, and our greatness. If we gain all these, then our country will not be lacking anything politically, economically, or in any other field.

AFP: Stinger Missiles Part of U.S. Arms Deal

NC271457 Paris AFP in English 1449 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Beirut, Oct 27 (AFP)—The United States has supplied Iran with a potent weapon—the Stinger anti-aircraft missile—a pro-Iranian Moslem fundamentalist source said here Tuesday. The source said that "more than 30 Stinger missiles" were given to Iran by the United States within the framework of an arms deal that became known as the Irangate scandal.

Robert McFarlane, the former national security adviser to U.S. President Ronald Reagan, is "personally aware of this," the source added. Mr. McFarlane travelled to Iran with a shipment of Hawk anti-aircraft missile spare parts on May 28 1986 in a bid to free Western hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

On October 17, sources close to the U.S. Defense Department said Iran's Revolutionary Guards militia could have confiscated some 30 Stinger missiles destined for Afghan rebels waging war against Soviet-backed government troops. The Department on October 9 said two Iranian boats captured by U.S. Navy forces in the Gulf contained equipment "believed associated with the U.S. Stinger system."

Khomeyni Receives Martyrs' Families 26 Oct

LD261155 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Iman Khomeyni met with the families of martyrs, those missing in action, POW's, and those crippled in the war from Bojnurd and Torbat-e Heydariyeh, Khorasan Province, together with the towns' deputies, in the Jamaran Mosque today; in the Islamic Consultative Assembly with the families of martyrs, of those missing in action, POW's and those crippled in the war from Gotvand, Khuzestan Province, together with the town's Friday imam and its deputy in the Islamic Consultative Assembly; and with a number of families of those missing in action, POW's and those crippled in action from the city of Tehran.

Karrubi, representative of the imam, supervisor of the Islamic Revolution Martyrs Foundation, and deputy speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, gave a speech praising the religious endeavors of the divine scholar, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Aqa Mostafa Khomeyni [Khomeyni's eldest son who died before the revolution]. On behalf of Imam Khomeyni, he expressed congratulations and condolences to the families of martyrs and his appreciation for the devotion of the families of martyrs, those missing in action, POW's, and those crippled in the war. Imam Khomeyni responded to the expressions of sentiment.

Bank Governor Assesses Stock Market Crash

NC261213 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Oct 87

[Interview with Majid Qasemi, governor of the Central Bank, by station announcer Afshar in the studio—live]

[Text] [Afshar] Mr Qasemi, we thank you for coming to the studio. As you know, reports indicate an unprecedented economic crisis in the West, particularly in the United States. Please explain the reasons for this crisis and the impact of this drop in share prices on the world markets.

[Qasemi] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. The roots of the crisis that the Western world, particularly the United States, is currently facing can be found in the arrogant and hegemonistic economy of the United States. This crisis arose from the public's lack of faith in the economic policies of the Western world, especially of the United States, as well as a lack of faith in the dollar and in dollar holdings, negotiable bonds, and dollar shares. We can see all this clearly and regard this situation as arising from the economic nature of world arrogance.

The current crisis can be understood in terms of the fall in the Dow Jones index. Last Monday this drop was twice that registered on 28 October 1929, the year of America's greatest economic crisis.

We can sum up the economic and political-military elements that led to this crisis in view of the limited time we have at our disposal here. The first is the deficit in the immense U.S. budget. When Reagan started his presidential campaign he promised to reduce to zero gradually the $40-billion budget deficit of Carter's last year as President. However, in recent years we have seen that not only has the U.S. budget deficit not dropped to zero, it has been fluctuating between $150-$200 billion.

The next important issue is the weakness of the dollar, a weakness that is expected to continue. This weakness began 2 years ago and is almost out of control. Also important is the U.S. trade deficit. Calculations put this deficit at about $100 billion per year. Figures published in August added to the pessimism. After a $16.5-billion trade deficit in July, predictions were that the situation would improve and the deficit would drop to $13-$14 billion in August. However, the published figures showed a $15.7-billion deficit. After these figures were published, shares in the stock market dropped. At the

same time, some industrial countries stopped cooperating with U.S. policies and agreements. These industrial countries are Japan and the FRG. These relations had been somewhat stabilized by the 22 February Louvre agreement.

In view of the increased interest rates in their countries, however, Japan and the FRG witnessed shifts of large amounts of capital in the financial markets between the U.S. economy and their economies. Opposition voiced by James Baker, the U.S. Treasury secretary, to this policy and his remarks that these rates should be reviewed led Western capitalists to expect another drop in the value of the dollar. This led to renewed heightening of fluctuations and the drop in the stock market.

Last Tuesday the Hong King market shut down for 1 week. The Tokyo and London markets were very adversely affected and delayed opening for 2 to 3 hours. In the hours after they opened, billions of dollars in stocks were offered, leading to the great drop on Wall Street.

Meanwhile, in the United States and among capitalists who keep their assets in dollars, a huge increase in inflation is expected. The American economists are expressing great concern in their forecasts that the U.S. economic stagnation will begin in late 1988 or early 1989. This high inflation, which is actually a sign of rapid growth, is one of the phenomena that usually emerge before a period of stagflation. This, of course, has caused much concern among those who have stocks in dollars.

U.S. military activities in the Persian Gulf are also related to the crisis foreseen for 1988 and 1989. It is possible that the United States is inflicting pressures now in an attempt to end the war before the period of stagflation begins, because, when it does begin, the budget and trade deficits will be aggravated. Under such conditions—from the Americans' point of view—the Iran-Iraq war and the Persian Gulf crisis cannot continue. Thus, they are possibly trying to make this war reach a stopping point before stagflation begins. Meanwhile, all U.S. efforts and the revelation of this superpower's (?futility) have weakened the feelings of trust in the United States and in its economy.

[Afshar] Mr Qasemi, even though we would like you to give us more information, because of our limited time we will have to end our interview. We thank you again for coming to the studio.

[Qasemi] You are welcome.

U.S. Called 'Main Loser' in 'Dangerous Game'

NC241410 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0515 GMT 24 Oct 87

[Unattributed commentary from the "Voice of the Front" feature]

[Text] Last week and the 1st day of the current week were especially significant because they coincided with the anniversary of the death of the great prophet of Islam and of the martyrdom of Imam Hasan and Imam Reza, AS. The impact made by those whose zealous wish is the grandeur of Islam and of the Koran for the fronts in the war of good against evil was immense last week. With their presence at the fronts, the new Basiji combatants pave the way for extensive operations by the forces of Islam to make the Ba'thist aggressors fall on their knees so that by inflicting the final blow, by removing the Baghdad regime and by getting rid of the element which creates tension, they can offer calm and security to the regional countries.

This is at a time when the United States, as the main engineer of the imposed war, is gradually entering the scene and is trying to prevent the complete defeat of the Baghdad regime and its mentors in achieving the primary objectives of the imposed war against the Islamic revolution.

Washington has chosen the policy of war without victors as the main pivot of its foreign policy vis-a-vis issues concerning the imposed war, and it idiotically believes that it can prevent the Baghdad regime's inevitable defeat. What has happened in the region recently and the crimes that the U.S. militarists are perpetrating in the Persian Gulf waters are aimed entirely at fulfilling this objective; the United States has undoubtedly thrown itself into the large eddy of regional events and each of its moves is plunging it deeper and deeper in this horrific eddy.

Although the savage attack by the U.S. warships on the Rashadat oil platform was aimed at instilling morale into regional reaction and at reviving U.S. prestige, nevertheless, Washington will soon realize it is the main loser in this dangerous game and it should pay heavily for its crimes and mischiefs. The United States has explicitly stated that this attack took place with the full knowledge and cooperation of regional reaction. This means that the Kuwaiti court and the other regional allies of the Baghdad regime have taken one step further in impudence and have entered into a kind of practical and overt cooperation with the interfering U.S. forces to expand the dimensions of tension in the region.

The Kuwaiti court, as the main inviter of the United States for a military presence in the region to exacerbate tension in the Persian Gulf, should feel the heavy weight of punishment on its shoulders and face the unfavorable consequences of such impudent policies in the scene of action. This means that the account for the U.S. attack on Iranian oil installations and the destruction of the Rashadat oil platform—which, according to initial calculations, amounts to about $500 million—should be settled with the United States and all of Washington's accomplices in crime in the region and each should pay a logical share in accordance with the role they played in this.

Naturally, if the Kuwaiti court had not invited Washington and if the other regional mentors of the Baghdad regime had not granted naval facilities to the interfering NATO forces, Washington would not have entered the scene so impudently. These impudences need clear and swift answers proportionate to the dimensions of America's crimes. Any swiftness in answering will make Washington regard the impacts of its mischief more realistically in the possibility of future mischiefs.

Weinberger, the empty-headed U.S. secretary of defense, referred to the Rashadat oil platform as a military base and pointed out that Washington regards the attack on this platform as a closed issue. This is a message which has met with a decisive and clear answer by Islamic Iran and Washington has been clearly warned that neither this crime nor any other crime perpetrated against the interests and lives of nationals of Islamic Iran by the United States or any other aggressor will remain unanswered. It is in Washington's interests to refrain from any other idiotic act after receiving the crushing answer to its recent crime; it should not pave the way for ensuing blows that will make it regret its acts.

In addition, before this—in the savage attack on the *Iran Ajr*—the United States sent an almost identical message through the UN secretary general to Iran, asking Iran not to retaliate. A retaliatory step at that time was postponed, but the contemporary world saw a new attack by the U.S. militarists against Iran in the attack on three patrol boats of Islamic Iran, during which two combatants of Islam were martyred and four others wounded. Thus, each time Washington sees its crimes unanswered, it becomes tempted to commit more crimes of greater dimension. This is why the contemporary world has now seen overt and declared aggression by the United States against an Iranian oil platform.

The question is: What military value can the savage attack by U.S. warships on an Iranian oil platform 110 km from the borders of Islamic Iran, free of any kind of military installations, have for the United States, except for encouraging regional reaction for a few days, further marring the already- tarnished U.S. prestige, and revealing the true face of the warmongering rulers in Washington and of the U.S. system to regional countries and the world? The United States portrays itself as the defender of the security and stability of international waters in the Persian Gulf, but today it has proven that it is the main element exacerbating regional tension.

The Rashadat oil platform had been attacked before by the Ba'thist aggressors and was in the last phase of renovation for reoperation. The U.S. attack on this oil platform shows that Washington intends to carry out acts previously considered Saddam's missions. And Reagan is now trying to carry out directly that mission he had assigned to the Baghdad regime unitl yesterday and to inform the world, with more impudence, official statements, and detailed reports, of his mischief. Facts show Washington is prepared to suffer the consequences and impact of such a development if it can affect the present course of the imposed war and achieve—in any way possible—the immediate cease-fire needed so badly by the Baghdad regime. As to the main engineers of the war suddenly becoming peace-seekers and speaking of immediate cease-fire, although hypocritical this is not at all surprising.

The war in itself benefits Washington, because it can, with the destruction and death it creates, be used to fulfill Washington's objectives of imposing conditions favorable to the United States in the region. But the fact is that this phenomenon favored by Washington is now moving in a course contrary to the initial objectives of the war's main engineers and is seriously threatening their interests. Washington's eagerness to establish an immediate cease-fire and its insistence on ending conflicts under such conditions stem from this. We should not forget that then-U.S. President Carter, who is so anxious today for a swift end to the conflict, stated clearly at the onset of the imposed war: The United States hopes this war will make Iran understand that the Tehran government needs peace and calm.

The war has never been favored by Iran or the combatant people of this country. But a nation and a revolution will not doubt for a moment the need to defend their ideals and to resist their enemies. Actually, the war and tension were imposed on this region and Iran in a bid to distract Iran from its devoted efforts to gain its rights and to thwart its serious efforts to cut short the hands of those who have interfered in its destiny, plundering the nation's wealth. Washington regards this effort by our nation, this just action, as militancy and even action against international peace and security. Its arrogance deemed it necessary to crush this strong wish of the Iranian nation. The main objective of the war's engineers in Washington was to achieve this very goal. But now, as U.S. officials confess, their effort has backfired, perplexing the U.S. statesmen.

Washington's great anxiety and the deep concern felt by the engineers of war stem from the fact it looks now as if the war will be resolved to the detriment of Washington and its long-term objectives of arrogance in the region—precisely against U.S. interests throughout the Islamic world. And this course is moving undeniably to the detriment of the West, specifically of the United States, without Washington's being able to have the least bit of noteworthy impact as far as serious changes in the general course of events is concerned.

Washington has always expressed concern about the escalation of the war and about the exacerbation of tension in the region. However, it has now entered the scene as the main element creating tension. Another way in which this approach and such reactions can be interpreted is that if the war continued as a controlled war of attrition and did not inflict noteworthy losses on

Washington's interests, not only would it not be a source of concern, it would be welcomed by the West and especially by the engineers of the war as a favorable phenomenon.

However, because of the show of strength by the combatants of Islam and the determining impact that fresh troops have had on changing the balance of power and on ensuring a definite victory for the forces of Islam, suddenly everything has been upset and the United States has confusedly taken action in a bid to end the war and impose an immediate cease-fire. Washington believes, idiotically, that what it is doing is in its interests. But even if we take U.S. interests as the only criterion for assessment and as the yardstick for Washington's actions, we see again that events are moving in exactly the opposite direction of U.S. interests and are inflicting irreparable damage to America's decisive and long-term interests.

Even if Reagan and his empty-headed secretary of defense do not understand these things correctly, it may be in the interests of regional nations for Washington to suffer a painful blow for the mistakes it has made, so it will refrain, once and for all, from intervening in the affairs of Muslim nations. This would ensure the calm and security of Muslim nations for a long, long time, God willing!

Delay of McFarlane Report Publication Viewed

LD261357 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1112 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Political commentary: "The Postponement of the Publication of the Report of the Joint Congressional Commission"]

[Text] Toward the end of last week a congressional committee of investigation announced that the publication of the report of the investigations concerning McFarlane's visit to Tehran has been postponed until the 2d week in November. This decision was made despite the fact that the date had been set earlier; it should have been published at the end of October. However, it seems that the intense opposition of some Senate members to the content of the report, which was merely referred to in newscasts as their opposition to the tone of the report, has caused the postponement of the publication of the report for nearly 3 weeks.

According to *The New York Times*, despite the changes already made in the report, some Senators believe there should be more. A recent *New York Times* article on this issue, quoting a Republican Senator, noted that the publication of the report in its present form would still cause some headaches. According to the paper, the report questions Reagan's claim that he had been uninformed about the military assistance given by the White House to Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries. This was one of the most sensational issues, and Reagan, by resorting to various stratagems, tried to convince public opinion that he was telling the truth.

However, the publication of the report will probably revive the issue in people's minds and present Reagan with new problems. In addition, the White House has actively tried to prove Reagan's ignorance regarding some of those activities, and to place responsibility for all the mistakes and illegal acts on some members of the administration, thus extricating Reagan from the crisis he was facing. However, the report contends that such illegal actions during Reagan's presidency were due to an atmosphere created as a result of Reagan's own policies and way of behavior. Whether or not he was informed of the illegal activities of members of the National Security Council, it will produce no major changes for Reagan.

Publication of this report will intensify the internal squabbles between American ruling circles and will pose new problems and difficulties for Reagan. Therefore, before the outcome of Shultz' visit to Moscow was known, there was good reason for Reagan trying hard to fix a date for a summit meeting in New York and to make preparations for the signing of an arms agreement. He was hoping to cover up the consequences of the publication of the report and the issues which will certainly loom large as the Republicans' weak points in the U.S. presidential elections.

Meanwhile, some political observers believe that the implementation of the plan to support Kuwaiti ships, and Reagan's decision to implement such a dangerous policy are not unconnected to the outcome of McFarlane's visit to Tehran, and that Reagan has tried to revive his and the Republicans' former standing by gaining some position in the Persian Gulf. However, the continuation of these hasty and miscalculated moves will lead to greater disgrace for Washington, precisely because they are hasty and miscalculated.

It is clear that the reasons for the repeated failures of Reagan's administration are not merely limited to the way they are portrayed. It is Washington's aggressive and inhuman policies that have inflicted numerous defeats on various U.S. and other administrations in the course of many years.

TV Commentary Notes U.S. 'Achilles Heel'

NC271034 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1620 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. The Yankees apparently consider their mission in the Persian Gulf very simple. If their helicopter gunship crashes, they facilely refute reports. If their ship collides with a mine, they simply fail to reveal the incident. If their installations are harmed, they callously smile and keep silent. And if their immense threats yield something

even very small, then their pencil pushers start working. Like fairy godmothers, they seize their opportunity and fabricate a story that will in 1 day make a mountain out of a molehill.

The Americans actually think that history is written by news agencies' telexes. They believe that the military responsibility of the CBS correspondent is bigger than the responsibility shouldered by the commander of the *Guadalcanal*. It is the CBS correspondent who, if necessary, makes the Rashadat oil platform militarily important. It is he who maintains that missiles were planted on a platform on which even smoking is prohibited. It is he who alleges that advanced radar systems were set up on the platform and who makes a big deal over nothing. It is also he who, whenever necessary, pockets his pen and becomes silent.

A Kuwaiti ship escorted by the American fleet collided with a mine about 90 days ago. Was anyone informed of this? All the ships in the region heard the Kuwaiti ship's SOS and its conversations with U.S. ships. However, not one word was mentioned on the news agencies' telexes. About a week or two ago, ships in the Persian Gulf again reported hearing SOS messages by two more ships. Again, no one said anything. Of course, IRNA immediately reported on both messages, but to silence this voice, too, they immediately said that Iran was responsible for attacking the two ships. A few days ago, a dreadful sound was heard in Kuwait. AP reported that there had been an explosion in the country's power generator.

Of course, we do not know exactly what happened, but this report was certainly a lie because Kuwait has only one power generator. Thus, if this explosion had taken place there, the country would have been plunged into darkness. Therefore, the explosion must have taken place somewhere else in the Kuwaiti shaykhdom.

Is it necessary to list other examples? Is there a need to point out that hours after the explosion on the *Sea Isle City* the news agencies did not report anything and finally KUNA was compelled to reveal the details of the incident? Are there other examples that were killed by the news agencies?

What we can say is that, by these acts, the Yankees are showing us their Achilles heel, revealing to us ways to conquer the Great Satan. With all their commotion about transcontinental missiles and Star Wars, what can they say when the world realizes that they are unable to escort 11 Kuwaiti tankers with 80 warships? With the flimsy formidability that they have built for themselves, they cannot report to their nation on the crash of their helicopter gunboat or take the corpse of a Marine back to their country. Because of the great lies which they have spread about their power, they are now twice as scared of us: first, because of the harm that they must suffer, and, second, because of the uncovering of the lies that they have told.

We have stated before, and we state again with complete faith, that we should aim at U.S. military prestige to confront it. The issue is not whether a gunboat can fight an aircraft carrier, but whether the United States can leave the area with the same commotion as it entered. The Yankees have built their castles in the air and this year their castles will come tumbling down. This year will see the crushing of the pharaohs under our feet. This year will show the strength of our clenched fists. This year will see seas roar and tempests conquered; it will see horizons brighten with the rays of the sun. This year is the year of resistance; it is the year of "Death to America." This year is the year of America's death. O young men of Iran: Go to the fronts! Answer America's expansionism with bullets!

Kuwait Urged To Take 'Truly Neutral Stand'

NC262124 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Unattributed political commentary]

[Excerpts] Hardly a day passes without the Kuwaiti authorities saying they will continue to honor their national commitment toward Iraq. These authorities are thus claiming that their continued support for Saddam Husayn's regime is a matter of national obligation. In past years, the Kuwaiti authorities would not have (?dared) make such utterances. However, these authorities pose as a (?champion) of nationalism, pan-Arabism, and other favorite ism's today.

Such Kuwaiti propaganda is conclusive evidence of that country's involvement in the aggressive [word indistinct] of the Saddam regime. The Kuwaiti regime's claim of neutrality with regard to the Iran-Iraq war, which it makes whenever it reaps the consequences of its involvement in the war, is thus completely invalid. Kuwait is a small country. Its people want to lead an honorable and a peaceful life. However, obviously oblivious of the needs of the people, the Kuwaiti authorities (?have dragged) this small and peaceful country into fruitless pursuits.

A nation that has been wronged is fighting the aggressors to repulse and punish them. Kuwait should not side with the aggressors to whom just punishment is being meted, let alone jump in their boat. The Islamic Republic has been warning the Kuwaiti Government for 8 years against involving itself in Gulf hostilities. [passage omitted]

As a result of their intransigence and their involvement in the plots being hatched by the enemies of the Kuwaiti people and all peoples of the region, the Kuwaiti rulers have turned their country into an arena for bombings and killings. Once a country that enjoyed a certain measure of (?democracy), Kuwait has now turned into a black spot in the region. The system of government has deteriorated to the most loathsome form of despotism.

The Kuwaiti press has been reduced to abject praise of the amir and his entourage and to flat endorsement of the assumed advantages of the hostile intervention of the U.S. fleets in the region.

Once a country whose solid economy attracted workers from all over the world, today's Kuwait is only a shadow of its former self. Companies, which already have laid off many workers, are striving to pay the wages of the remaining employees. Capital is fleeing the country and development and construction have come to a standstill. Do the rulers of Kuwait aim to starve their country? The truth, which history will record, is that the [word indistinct] rulers of Kuwait have sold their country [words indistinct]

Kuwait is deteriorating daily and days pass quickly. It is sad to see such a Muslim country in such a state. There is still some time left for those who want to stem the current degeneration in Kuwait. This can be done if that country adopts a new policy and if it takes a truly neutral stand on the war.

Tehran Examines Egyptian Policy on Gulf War

NC252006 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Oct 87

[Unattributed political commentary]

[Excerpt] Whenever the situation in the Gulf becomes tense, the rulers of Egypt open their eyes and hold their tongues from expressing their ambitions and their wishes of benefiting from the conditions. Mubarak's policy on the Persian Gulf is based on fishing in murky waters. Ever since Saddam's regime escalated the war in the Persian Gulf, Egypt's leaders have been waiting for the appropriate time to enter the arena. Mubarak inherited this policy from his predecessor.

It was the executed Al-Sadat who opened the doors for others to participate in the war on the side of Saddam. By providing military aid to Saddam's regime, Al-Sadat used this war to express his hidden hatred of the Islamic revolution. He was the first to open the door of aid to Saddam. His successor, Mubarak, followed suit. Mubarak considered the Ba'thist aggression against the Islamic Republic as the best way to end his political isolation.

It was natural, therefore, that Saddam's regime was the first to defend Mubarak and to advocate his regime's return to the Arab League. [passage omitted] The Gulf war is essentially one between U.S. reactionary circles and the Islamic Republic. What is new in the Mubarak regime's evil stands toward the Gulf issue was revealed by a responsible military source of the Egyptian regime to the Gulf paper *Al-Ittihad*. That official said Egypt would not stand idly by with regard to what is taking place in the Gulf arena. That official justified Egypt's interest in the area by noting that 3 million Egyptians currently reside in the Gulf states.

What is new in this statement is the military official's justification. This is an important point, worthy of attention. What is most indicative here is Egypt's sweeping desire to send Egyptian Army units outside Egypt's border, particularly as there are great fears that that Army might do something to overthrow Mubarak's regime. The fact that the Egyptian Army is watching the multifaceted Zionist invasion of its Islamic state is, in itself, an important reason for the relocation of that Army, which still yearns to wage the struggle of honor against the Zionist entity. The expulsion of this Army, or part of it, outside the country's border will allay the fears of the authorities and safeguard them from any action which the Egyptian Army might contemplate carrying out.

Furthermore, following its political and military defeats in the Persian Gulf, the United States is now seriously pondering its withdrawal from this area. However, it does not intend to withdraw before selecting somebody to deputize for it. [passage indistinct]

Joint Staff Communique No 3,001 Details Combat

LD261629 Tehran IRNA in English 1602 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 26, IRNA—Exchange of artillery fire continued throughout the battlefields Sunday, raging somewhat more heavily in Zayd and Kushk, southern sector, where at least 10 Iraqi soldiers were killed and vast parts of enemy positions and a vehicle were set ablaze, said a military communique here Monday. The 3001st Joint Staff communique said that Iran's Muslim combatants shelled Iraqi armoured units in Panjwin, Eynkhosh and Nahr 'Anbar, northwestern and southern fronts Sunday, inflicting heavy losses on nine enemy tanks and killing several crew members.

Iranian patrol convoys successfully reconnoitered key Iraqi positions throughout the fronts Sunday, dealing heavy blows on enemy troops and returning safely to bases. Four Iraqi patrol units, attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Panjwin and Qasr-e Shirin Sunday, sustained several casualties and were forced to flee by Iranian artillery fire.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and 15 enemy armament emplacements were destroyed in parts of the southern fronts in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces Sunday. The artillery fire of the Muslim combatants checked Iraqi engineering operations in Chazabeh, Helaleh and west of Jofeyr southern sector Sunday, inflicting heavy losses on two enemy engineering vehicles. In Hawr al-Azim and Yebis, southern fronts, movement of Iraqi vehicle columns was checked by heavy Iranian artillery fire Sunday, concluded the communique.

British Reflagged Tanker Searched in Gulf

LD261926 Tehran IRNA in English 1918 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] London, Oct 26, IRNA—The British Defence Ministry conceded Monday that Iran has every right to stop and search ships suspected of carrying cargoes for Iraq. A Defence Ministry spokesman referring to the latest incident of the reflagged Kuwaiti tanker *Tonbridge* under British Naval escort, said it was "nothing untoward." The 263,000 ton crude carrier, previously called *Al-Faiha*, was understood to be coming out of the Persian Gulf on Sunday when it was stopped and questioned by an Iranian frigate with the British destoyer *Brazen* nearby. "If they suspect that it is carrying a cargo (for Iraq), they are entitled to check under the U.N. Charter," the spokesman told IRNA.

He said that in the past Iran had taken U.K. ships to port, to be searched. "They have to prove it, we still argue that we have the inherent right of passage in international waters," but everyone is living on a "knife's edge" in the region. The vessel, owned by the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC), was making its second voyage since it was reflagged in Britain last month and is thought to be the first re-registered ship to be stopped by Iran.

Last week, the 28,000 ton products carrier *Ras al-Jalayah* became the second KOTC tanker to fly the British flag when it was renamed the *Chilham Castle*, and a third, the *Al-Basrshah* will reportedly follow the same course this week. British seamen are convinced that some of the vessels being reflagged are Iraqi ships in disguise whose registrations were earlier transfered to the Ba'thist regime's firm ally Kuwait. Three other Kuwaiti ships are also said to be claiming British protection by registering in U.K. Dependent territories.

Black Marketeers Facing New Punishments

LD262130 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] The chairman of the Central Price Control Commission held a news conference at which he announced: The amendment to the law regarding penalties and the completed articles which will be added to this bill—also covering the increase in penalties for offenders—have been prepared and sent to all regional price control commissions. We draw your attention to a report on the subject: The chairman of the Central Price Control Commission at a news conference today discussed the amendment to the law regarding penalties and noted that the drop in the price of foreign currency for export purposes is a positive result of this. He also noted that the plan to fight rising prices and to control inflation is successful.

He added: According to the new amendments to the bill on penalties, which has been forwarded to all governor generals and which has gone into effect, any legal entity or actual person who hoards goods which come under the law and refuses to offer them on the market will be considered a black marketeer on the basis of the commission's decision. Should the case be proved, the goods discovered will be sold at official prices through various distribution networks. The offender will be fined anywhere from 1 to 10 times the official value of the goods.

Should the offense be repeated, in addition to the penalty, the Price Control Commission will take measures to cut off allocations and all government services, permits will be cancelled, premises will be permanantly closed, and the offense will be publicized via the mass media.

He added: Penalties for gang members and organizations attempting to disrupt the economy and the distribution network in the country amount to a fine between 5 to 10 times the value of what was unjustly obtained or the damage inflicted, up to 70 lashes in public depending on the type and seriousness of crime, and exile from 3 months to 3 years.

He continued: All importers must contact the organization for protection of consumers and producers in Tehran or commerce departments in other provinces within 15 days of clearing their goods through customs to set up an appointment and establish conditions for distributing imported goods. They will then obtain the official price list and can distribute the goods on the basis of conditions set up by the Commerce Ministry. Should they not do this for unacceptable reasons or should they give false information, on the basis of the decision of the Commerce Ministry or the organization for protection of consumers and producers, importers will be considered offenders and their goods will be subject to penalty regulations.

The chairman added: Those who try to illegally export foreign or domestic currency, gold, or coins will be fined anywhere from 5 to 20 times the value of the goods that they have either exported or attempted to export and the goods will also be confiscated. He added: Misappropriation of foreign currency, quantities of goods that are less than the declared amount or not imported at all, or any misappropriation in this respect will be considered a violation of contract and unjust income and a fine as high as 10 times the value of the currency or goods in question will apply. Production units that avoid supplying goods or complying with their contracts after receiving either foreign currency allocations or government goods and services will be fined 10 times the official price of the goods or services for a first offense and for a second offense, in addition to this fine, their government services will be cut off, their allocations stopped, permits cancelled, and premises closed.

Managers of production units—whether private, cooperatives, or government units—who avoid production despite their ability to produce announced essential goods, on the basis of the recommendation of the provincial Price Control Commission and subject to the

approval of the Central Price Control Commission, will be replaced by either government-appointed or private managers. Should the provincial commission consider it necessary, the offender will be sentenced to a maximum of 1 year in exile.

Referring to the matter of the sale and distribution of goods, which come within the framework of the plan, outside the set rules and regulations, he said: Sale or distribution of such goods outside the determined rules and regulations is illegal. Should all or part of any goods be sold outside these regulations, the offender will be find a maximum of 10 times the official value of the goods. He went on to discuss the measure to enforce the plan and said: On the basis of the addendum to the government punishment bill, offenders who do not comply with the orders of the Supervisory Commission will be sentenced to a maximum of 15 days of imprisonment as well as lashes and exile for 3-12 months. This is in addition to the established fines for as long as they do not carry out the order. Those who create disturbances in the economic system of the country will receive the maximum punishment through the revolution courts.

In conclusion, announcing that a third list of goods subject to the plan will be announced soon, he said: Following the implementation of the bill, the majority of goods subject to the bill dropped in prices. According to Central Bank statistics, the drop includes prices of such goods as fruit, pasteurized milk, yoghurt, cheese, home produced tea, liquid gas, valve regulators, doctor's fees, foodstuffs, delicacies, and foreign currency, which show anything from 9 to 90 percent drops.

Kurdish Rebels Kill 11 in Iraqi Province

LD260627 Tehran IRNA in English 0620 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 26, IRNA—Peshmergas of Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) infiltrated Shaqlawah in Irbil Province Sunday and killed 11 Iraqi Ba'th Party officials including the town's mayor Kamal Hassan Hussein [name as received] and wounded 11 others. Ramadan headquarters the center for the irregulars of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps said today that the KDP Peshmergas seized an assortment of weapons, ammunition and three vehicles intact.

Pakistan

Junejo Dismisses Involvement in Gulf Conflict

BK230805 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 16 Oct 87 p 1

[By Ashraf Hashmi]

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 15—Prime Minister Muhammad Khan Junejo declared here this night that Pakistan will in no way get involved in the Gulf War. He said "we are keeping a close watch on the developments taking place in the Gulf but in no way would take sides in the crisis. Informally talking to newsmen in the National Assembly cafeteria the Prime Minister while replying to a question said that he had no knowledge of reports that the United States wanted Pakistan to play a specific role in the Gulf war in lieu of the American assistance. No such conditions have come to my knowledge, the Prime Minister said and added that Pakistan had maintained a neutral posture in the Gulf war and would continue to do so in future also. This policy, he said, would in no way be affected and there was no question of our involvement in the Gulf war.

The Prime Minister expressed strong hopes that the American Congress would soon allow the resumption of the US military and economic assistance to this country. He said Pakistan was not the only country affected by the US suspension of assistance. There were a number of Third World countries which have been similarly affected.

Replying to another question the Prime Minister said that both Iran and Pakistan maintained a close contact on Afghanistan problem and keep each other informed of any fresh development in this respect. The Prime Minister said he had no knowledge of reports suggesting a secret agreement between Iran and Afghanistan on the Afghan issue and said that there was no change in Iran policy in this respect.

He also said that he had no knowledge of the reports claiming that Iran was using the same Stinger missiles which were supplied to the Afghanistan mujahidin by the United States.

Talking about Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub's withdrawal from the election of UNESCO post, the Prime Minister said that exaggerated reports were appearing in the press about the expenses incurred over the election campaign of Sahabzada Yaqub. He said, he would soon be able to inform the nation about the details on this account. He said that it was the Government of Pakistan who nominated Sahabzada Yaqub to contest the elections and allowed the necessary expenditure in this regard. When told the Sahabzada Yaqub's withdrawal from the contest was a failure of the Foreign Office, the Prime Minister said that it was too early to comment on this.

The Prime Minister who attended the proceedings of the National Assembly till late this night, was in a good mood and he mixed up with the members at the dinner hosted by the Speaker Hamid Nasir Chatha. Agencies add: He also disagreed with a questioner that the American Government was exerting any pressure on Pakistan to change its stand on nuclear or Gulf position.

Asked about the date for the local bodies elections in the country Prime Minister Junejo quipped "it will not be very late".

When asked about Pakistan's naval role in the Gulf as reported by a section of the Press he said, Pakistan policy is following an independent policy and we are taking such steps which could help in finding an end to this war.

Further Reports on Iranian Delegation's Visit

Feted by Finance Minister

BK260440 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text) Pakistan attaches great importance to the Pakistan-Iran Joint Ministerial Commission which serves as a well organized body for the promotion of bilateral cooperation. This was stated by federal Finance Minister Mian Muhammad Yasin Khan Wattoo while addressing a banquet hosted by him in honor of the visiting Iranian delegation in Islamabad last night. He said that the proceedings of the third session of the commission will brighten the prospects of new areas of economic cooperation benefiting both the countries. He also referred to the trilateral cooperation between Pakistan, Iran and Turkey and commended the role being played by Iran in the Economic Cooperation Organization.

Iranian delegation leader Mohammad Javad Iravani speaking at the occasion said that his country has been taking keen interest in boosting ties and cooperation with Pakistan. He said the cordial and beneficial relations between Pakistan and Iran can serve as a good example for other countries. The Iranian minister said the problems faced by the Islamic countries, including Afghanistan and the Middle East, can be solved only when Muslims throughout the world forge a real unity among them.

Meets With Ziaul Haq 26 Oct

BK270342 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] The Iranian economic delegation led by Mohammad Javad Iravani, Iran's minister of economic and financial affairs, met President Muhammad Ziaul Haq in Islamabad this afternoon. The delegation discussed with the president matters relating to economic development and the efforts that have been made by the Pakistan-Iran joint ministerial commission in this regard. The Iranian minister also met Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan.

Delivers Khamene'i Message

LD261744 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 26, IRNA—In a message to Pakistani President Ziaul Haq Monday, Iran's President 'Ali Khamene'i said that the Islamic Republic will give a decisive response to any aggression in the Persian Gulf and that regional security should be for all or none. President Khamene'i's message was handed over to President Ziaul Haq by Iranian Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani, here at the head of a delegation to participate in the third session of the joint Iran-Pakistan economic commission.

In response to President Khamene'i's message, President Ziaul Haq stressed that foreign interferences in the Persian Gulf and escalation of regional tension will not be in the interest of any country. He also expressed Pakistan's concern over the critical situation in the Persian Gulf, underlining the need to explore a way to defuse regional tension.

Meanwhile, in a separate meeting with Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan here today, Iravani discussed with him ways to further expand Tehran-Islamabad ties. He announced the Islamic Republic's willingness to purchase basic commodities from Pakistan. Yaqub Khan expressed satisfaction over the increase of bilateral trade exchanges, calling for further strengthening of Tehran-Islamabad politico-economic relations. Iravani, referring to the recent developments in the Persian Gulf, said that the presence of foreign forces has heightened regional tension. Calling for the withdrawal of foreign forces from the region, he termed it an 'important' step towards relaxing tension. The 35-man Iranian delegation headed by the economic and financial affairs minister arrived here on October 24.

Sri Lanka

Indian Forces Take Control After Jaffna Battle

'Severe Damage' by LTTE

BK240636 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 23 Oct 87

[Text] National and international media men were taken to Jaffna today to have firsthand information on the prevailing situation there. They could see the damage done by the LTTE on temples, buildings, and also roadblocks set up at various places in Jaffna town. They could see smoke and fire emanating from some of the buildings. LTTE has used mines and mortars to cause severe damage, forcing the civilians to flee. Brigadier Kulwant Singh of the peacekeeping force spoke to media men about the prevailing situation in Jaffna.

[Begin Kulwant Singh recording] We have not been using (?heavy) weapons. We have not used [word indistinct] bomb because of our consideration to human life and also to ensure that we do not cause heavy damage or any damage at all to the houses and the buildings. [end recording]

1200 'Terrorists' Escape

BK261235 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] The Indian Peacekeeping Force [IPKF] announced last night the successful conclusion of "Operation (Pawan)" after the IPKF gained effective control

of the municipal limits of Jaffna town. But even as the overall commander of the IPKF, Lieutenant General Deepender Singh, and a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry declared Jaffna a free city, reports came through that a bulk of the LTTE terrorists, estimated to a number around 1,200, including their leader V. Prabhakaran, had fleeted through the Indian advanced columns. The [word indistinct] was situated around 1900 last night as the first group of international and Indian journalists went round the town.

An IPKF spokesman told the journalists just 2 km from the battlefront that the main Indian pincer moving down from the northwest along the main Palaly-Jaffna city [road] has linked up with a Jaffna brigrade, thus, eliminating all organized LTTE opposition.

During the nearly 4 hours which the journalists spent in Jaffna town, there was a continuous sound of blast as [words indistinct] who has been flown during the past 40 hours, detonated hundreds of land mines and booby traps all over the city. The IPKF commander and the External Affairs Ministry spokesman said that the political process is now on. Both Lt Gen Deepender Singh, as well as the spokesman, brushed off the threat of the urban and jungle insurgency, while the LTTE is saying that with the fall of their main bastion, their support has definitely eroded. With the LTTE men virtually on the run, the IPKF has launched an intense aerial reconnaissance of the whole sweep of the Jaffna Peninsula apparently to spot the LTTE bands on the move and then hit them with maximum force.

In New Delhi, a government spokesman confirmed Indian press reports that India would send their civil servants to turn areas of northern Sri Lanka captured from the Tigers. He said about six administrators would be sent soon. Two Sunday newspapers have said 16 Tamil-speaking civilians would be sent and they would work in cooperation with the Sri Lankan authorities.

Official sources told *Lanka Puwath* that Indian troops were confronted with heavily-mined areas in the proximity of the Jaffna university. Meanwhile, a group of terrorists was surrounded on the Navala road by the IPKF who were moving in on them. Official sources also said that a large number of terrorists were reported to have fled from the town area to the Thenmarachchi and Vadamarachchi areas. The total number of Indian forces killed in action was 147. They included 12 officers, 30 soldiers who were reported missing; 496 IPKF soldiers had been wounded in action.

The IPKF and the Sri Lankan police together captured the largest haul of terrorist weapons in the Eastern Province when they raided central armory of the EROS armory that was situated in the concrete bunkers 2 feet below a 9 mile stretch along the lagoon at (Milewatte) in the Batticaloa District. [sentence as heard] A total of 250 weapons and 24,000 rounds of ammunition were taken into custody during the raid. The arms included 48 rocket-propelled grenades, 50 plastic explosive mortar bombs, 12 AK-47 rifles, 4 mortars, 15,000 rounds of G-3 ammunition, 2 rocket launchers, 9,000 rounds of [name indistinct] ammunition, 50 aluminum balls containing shrapnel which are fixed to claymore mines, 5 claymore mines, and 2 submachine guns.

Mines, Booby Traps Cleared

BK270608 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] The peacekeeping force [PKF] which has taken control of Jaffna town is now clearing the mines and booby traps laid by the LTTE. In today's operations, a huge quantity of ammunition and explosives has been recovered from two houses adjoining the Nallur Temple. Large quantities of spare parts of weapons have also been captured. An official spokesman said today the relief and rehabilitation work is going on in full swing in Jaffna. There are nearly 56,000 refugees at 15 places, the largest concentration being in the Nallur Temple and the Hindu College.

Medical supplies are also being sent to these places. Four medical teams were flown to Jaffna today. Each of the four-member teams comprises doctors and nurses of the Indian Red Cross Society. They will attend the affected people in Nallur (Kandaswamy) Temple and Jaffna university areas. The peacekeeping men continued to airdrop food packets to civilians in spite of hostile sniper fire from the LTTE. Four engineers were flown to Jaffna today to restore electricity supply in the affected area. This will be done in a phased manner. Two of the engineers are from the Tamil Nadu electricity board. The PKF has also begun moving supplies unloaded from the relief ship— *Island Glory*—into Jaffna. The official spokesman said the process is on to get a team of civil administrators to work with the PKF in Jaffna and to assist in relief measures.

The general officer commanding in chief of the Southern Command, Lieutenant General Deepender Singh, spoke to Doordarshan correspondent Muthu Kumar in Jaffna yesterday on the responsibilities of the PKF in providing relief and rehabilitation:

[Begin recording] [Singh] We are allowing the process of carrying out house-to-house search for weapons, any armed LTTE cadres, and so on. Also, carrying out de-mining of the area and removing booby traps, of which there have a very extensive use made by the LTTE. Also, they are engaged in restoring the water supply and the electric supplies to the town, but for that we are running a litte bit of problem because there are no technicians. So we sought the help of the Tamil Nadu Government and we are hoping that some technicians will come over from there.

[Kumar] What is the position in the refugee camps there, General?

[Singh] Well, as soon as we reached the refugee camps, we are immediately reassuring them that the worst is over and they should now not move out and stay there, and that medical assistance and supplies, and clothing would be reaching them in the shortest possible time. We have got the stock of medicines, we have got the doctors, we have got the rations, and we have got the transport and the personnel to move them. The delay wherever it has occurred has been due to extensive mining of the roads. [end recording]

Brigadier Manjit Singh of the PKF spoke to the visiting media men yesterday on completing the job after taking control of Jaffna town:

[Begin Singh recording] I just talk to you, my dears, because they have reached that place. So in this sector, there is no area which is left. We have taken the entire sector and that is why you hear no firing today. In the last bid, there was no resistance at all. They were able to go right till that place. How is it that we have taken so long after that to go (? and that) why is your progress slow? I believe a number of you were keen to know that. It has been slow because of the fact that we have been going along the roads, but after that the mines had to be cleared and booby traps had to be cleared.

Now that you have been to the hospital, you have seen how the area is on the either side and it would have been too costly to our people to step away from the roads because then it would have been you have to know as to how badly mined and booby trapped the area is. [end recording].

A number of wounded personnel of the PKF are receiving treatment at the military hospital in Madras. A group of Army officers' wives led by the wife of the general officer commanding in chief, Southern Command, visited the jawans [soldiers] in the hospital today. The military hospital at Madras has received 479 wounded jawans of the PKF from Jaffna between 10-25 October. Of these, 401 persons have been transferred to other military hospitals at Bangalore, Pune, Agra, and Sikanderabad after initial treatments. Around 160 of those transferred have fully recovered and have returned to Madras for rejoining their units in Jaffna. In yesterday's operations, 5 PKF personnel were killed and 28 wounded. Most of these casualties were caused by the mine blasts. Twenty LTTE supporters were killed in the operation.

Jaffna Civilians Urged To Help Indian Forces

BK261052 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 15 Oct 87 p 6

[Editorial: "A Quick Finish is Important"]

[Text] The Liberation Tigers, undoubtedly feeling the heat of the current Indian offensive in the Jaffna Peninsula, have made their second call for peace—according to a Madras-datelined report received in Colombo on Tuesday. No particular political savvy is necessary to know why the latest appeal has been directed to DMK leader M. Karunanidhi. Prabhakaran's stock in New Delhi is obviously not high at the present moment. Despite his professed love for India, his fighters have been inflicting considerable fatalities on the Indian Peace-Keeping Force. Some reports suggest that Tiger brutality, reserved for unarmed Sinhalese villagers in the eastern districts, has been used against Indian soldiers unfortunate enough to fall into LTTE hands.

Although the LTTE leader first turned to New Delhi to ask that the offensive be halted, Prabhakaran would not have been overly optimistic about a positive response, given the realities of Delhi's own obligations towards implementing the peace accord as well as the LTTE's own shameful conduct in the aftermath of the cyanide suicides. They had better luck with Mr Karunanidhi who was their next resort. The DMK leader, who was once chief minister of Tamil Nadu, is the implacable foe of Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran who now calls the shots in Madras. Also, M.G. Ramachandran is a valued ally of the Congress Party in south India. It, therefore, made sense for the LTTE to turn to him for support at this critical juncture.

Though Karunanidhi may not be able to deliver all that Prabhakaran wants, the DMK leader commands organisational, financial and other resources to drum up some support for the Tiger cause in south India. Rallies are planned in Tamil Nadu for later this week and Mr. Karunanidhi is on record saying that he has asked Delhi to call off the military thrust in Jaffna immediately. It is most unlikely that Delhi would do the DMK leader's bidding. But it is important that the anti-Tiger operation is quickly concluded before other pressures are mounted to abort what the IPKF is now doing in Jaffna.

That is where the people of Jaffna can help. If there is positive public opinion in the Tamil areas that the Tigers must be resisted, that they cannot be allowed to have their will at gunpoint, that bloodshed is unacceptable, and that the Tamil areas cannot be governed by people marching to office over dead bodies, much of the battle can be won. With the best will in the world, the IPKF will not be able to seize all the LTTE arms—even after the successful conclusion of the present operation; it will not be possible for the Indians to locate all those land mines that, today, claim the lives of Indian soldiers. The best people to tip the authorities off about where the arms are hidden, where the land mines are buried, are the people of the north and the east.

They have undergone much hardship and travail during the four years that are now past. They have the biggest stake in an honourable peace. The peace accord provides an opportunity of a just and fair settlement of real, or perceived, grievances that the Tamil people may have had. It is in their own interests as well as those of the whole country which belongs no less to them than to the other communities inhabiting this land that the present offensive will be the final military action in those troubled areas. The people of the north can do much to make their youth see reason, and opt for peace with honour.